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Seaport bond on edge of default

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has reported that its seaport revenue bond is also on the brink of technical default.

“The rate study will propose rate increases which will be passed on to the shipping industry in the form of tariffs and will further affect all involved in our local economy.”

—Lee Cabrera, acting CPA executive director

Acting CPA executive director Lee Cabrera in a report to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Legislature said that CPA may have to increase rates at the Port of

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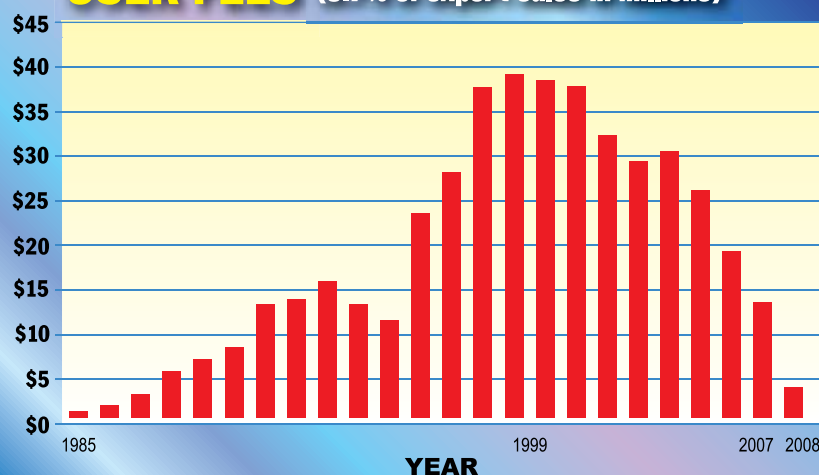


LITTERBUGS

Beautify CNMI volunteers pick up litter at the Koblerville Substation Sunday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USER FEES (3.7% of export sales in millions)



Source: CNMI Department of Finance. Fiscal year totals

‘Spike in user fees may signal factory closures’

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Garment exports from the Commonwealth rose significantly last month but hardly enough to prop up the collapsing apparel manu-



Pierce

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Fitial OKs \$3.4M CUC bailout bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill funding the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s temporary power deal and paying the agency's debts to two contractors.

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FUNDING BREAKDOWN

- \$1.5 million for Aggreko
- \$1.1 million for PMIC
- \$800,000 for Telesource



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Local

Guam searches for crew of crashed bomber

At least two of six-man crew recovered



AP
A 2004 file photo shows a B-52 bomber on the tarmac of the Barksdale AFB in Bossier City, La.

By JAYMES SONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Rescue crews were searching a vast area of floating debris and a sheen of oil Monday for crew members of an Air Force B-52 bomber that crashed off the island of Guam, officials said.

At least two people were recovered from the waters, but

their condition was not immediately available, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Six vessels, three helicopters, two F-15 fighter jets and a B-52 bomber were involved in the search, which had covered about 70 square miles (180 square kilometers) of ocean, Coast Guard spokeswoman Lt. Elizabeth Buendia said.

"We have an active search

that's going to go on throughout the night," she said Monday. The Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and local fire and police departments were involved.

The B-52 bomber based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana was en route to conduct a flyover in a parade when it crashed around about 30 miles (50 kilometers) northwest of Apra Harbor, the Air Force said.

The Liberation Day parade celebrates the day when the U.S. military arrived on Guam to retake control of the island from Japan.

The Air Force said a board of officers will investigate the accident.

The accident is the second for the Air Force this year on Guam, a U.S. territory 3,700 miles (5,950 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii.

In February, a B-2 crashed at Andersen Air Force Base shortly after takeoff in the

first-ever crash of a stealth bomber. Both pilots ejected safely. The military estimated the cost of the loss of the aircraft at US\$1.4 billion.

The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can refuel in mid air. Since the 160-foot-long (50-meter-long) bomber was first placed into service in 1955, it has been used for a wide range of missions from attacks to ocean surveillance. Two B-52s, in two hours, can monitor 140,000 square miles (360,000 square kilometers) of ocean surface.

According to the Air Force's Web site, the B-52 Stratofortress has been the backbone of the manned strategic bomber force for the U.S. for more than four decades. It is capable of dropping or launching the widest array of weapons in the U.S. inventory, including cluster bombs and precision guided missiles.

'Future status of some IRs uncertain'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal Labor ombudsman Jim Benedetto said the Department of Homeland Security may come up with a solution on how to address the status of immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents.

"As far as the people who'd become IRs [under] the CNMI permanent residence program that was discontinued years ago, I don't know what's going to happen to them," said Benedetto during Saturday's forum with Bangladeshi, Nep-

I don't know what they are going to do," he said.

It was not clear how many IRs of permanent residents exist in the CNMI.

With respect to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, Benedetto said there will be no changes in their status because they are already entitled to green cards based on having U.S. citizen spouses.

As for IRs of Federated States of Micronesia citizens, the ombudsman admitted he doesn't know the answer either.

Benedetto suggested to the workers to raise the issue in an



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto answers questions raised by members of the Bangladeshi, Sri Lankans, Nepalese, and Indians communities during Saturday's public forum organized by the Coalition of Guest Workers (NMI) at the Kilili Beach pavilion.

alese, Sri Lankan, and Indian communities held at Kilili Beach pavilion.

The official said that when the federalization law was drafted, the authors did not even know that these class of people existed.

"So the Homeland Security folks are going to have to come up with some sort of solutions to that. And frankly,

e-mail format so they could send it to Igor Timofeyev, director of immigration policy and special adviser for refugee and asylum at the Department of Homeland Security. He was the head of the federal delegation that visited CNMI last week.

Benedetto said when Timofeyev's has an answer to that issue, it will be forwarded to the workers.

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NEW PTI CENTER

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno Fitial delivers his remarks during the grand opening ceremony for PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan Wednesday afternoon last week.

Judge gives garment board new extension for check distribution

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted the Garment Oversight Board's request for a final extension of its term in order for the board to account for the last \$1.6 million in checks that were distributed or about to be sent to former and current garment workers.

The board also cited some additional issues that are pending such as taxes.

The board's term has been extended many times; its current term will expire on July 31, 2008. Yesterday, Chief Judge Alex R. Munson extended the board's term to Oct. 31, 2008. He said the board's request for an extension appears reasonable.

Board chair Timothy H. Bellas said 11,353 checks were already processed and the remaining 1,031 checks will be sent to the workers by July 26, 2008.

The settlement class members (eligible workers) continue to visit the board's office in Puerto Rico, Saipan to inform the GOB that they are still here and would like their checks handed to them on the island.

In some cases, workers would come in after the checks have already been mailed to their off-island addresses, which are on file with the board, said Bellas in GOB's motion for final extension of term.

"Allowing for a 60-day pe-

riod from the date the remaining 1,031 checks are mailed, in order for them to be cashed and or returned to the GOB or its account, will mean that the GOB will be unable to render its final accounting of the distribution of the [residual settlement funds] until Sept. 29, 2008," Bellas said.

Finally, he said, there are some pending issues such as taxes previously paid to both the CNMI and the U.S. governments for withholding taxes of eligible workers who have never received their checks.

Bellas said both lawyers for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit and the GOB are still pursuing the issue with the appropriate government bodies.

The GOB chairman said the board can use the remaining funds as operating expenses for completing the distribution and the extension period.

He said the board recently received its latest statement from the Bank of Hawaii and, after withdrawing the \$2 million for the planned distribution, the residual balance went up from \$47,745.09 to \$86,242.13.

"There may be a slight shortage in the final months which shall be paid from funds realized from returned or non-negotiated distribution checks," Bellas said.

GOB was set up pursuant to the \$20-million settlement agreement in the class action to oversee the monitoring program of the garment industry.

Democrats endorse Cing for delegate election Crisostimo to run as independent bet

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Democratic Party announced yesterday its endorsement of former Sen. David Cing for congressional delegate.

The party canceled the planned primary between Cing and Sen. Luis Crisostimo after the latter failed to follow through on his application for the party's support, according to Democratic Party chairman Manuel Sablan.

Sablan said Crisostimo took himself off the race for the party's endorsement by failing to submit the required fee or even contact the party about the pri-

mary. "The party will not tolerate such behavior from any prospective candidate seeking the endorsement of the Democratic Party," he added.

In a separate interview, Crisostimo said he withdrew from the primary because he did not believe the local Democratic Party could register enough members to conduct a fair and credible primary.

He added that he is still running as an independent candidate. But he said his campaign will highlight his membership with the national Democratic Party. "I am registered with the national party, they're not. I hope that someday, our local Democrats will consider regis-

tering with the national party," he said.

Sablan questioned Crisostimo's sincerity in registering with the local party on June 23, 2008 and seeking the party's endorsement. "He was not serious about running under the party. If he was, why were his billboards all over the place? He knew he still had to go through the primary," he said.

This is not the first time the local Democratic Party has rejected Crisostimo's application to run under the party. In 2007, the party chose Gabriel Babauta over Crisostimo for

the senatorial race.

Cing was not available for comments at press time.

In addition to Cing and Crisostimo, five candidates have expressed interest in running independent. Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio will represent the NMI Republican Party. Retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo are planning to run independent.

To date, only Gonzales and Lizama have formally filed their candidacy with the Election Commission.

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- C. Actor
- D. Scientist
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PEPSI

OPA's Mike Sablan steps down today

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan will step down today after seven and a half years in office.

Sablan submitted his resignation two months ago to return to the private sector. He will join the executive management of the Micronesia-based Triple J Enterprises in August.

"I'm looking forward to going back to the private sector. But it is also difficult to leave an office that I think has been progressive and helped improve the government during my tenure," said Sablan.



Sablan

He said he looks forward to working with his yet-to-be named successor as the OPA transitions to its new leadership. He also paid tribute to the OPA

staff, saying the time he spent working with them was the "proudest chapter in my career."

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration will announce Sablan's replacement possibly today.

Sablan was first appointed as public auditor in 2000 by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. In December 2006, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reappointed him for another six-year term.

Under his leadership, the Office of the Public Auditor issued about 100 audit reports, conducted Ethics and Accountability presentations for thousands of government employees, and made numerous recommendations to reform regulations to improve accountability over public

resources including travel, procurement, and personnel.

Sablan is also credited with reducing OPA personnel and transitioning OPA from a mostly nonresi-

dent staff to an almost 100-percent local staff.

Sablan is a certified public accountant with a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Cali-

fornia, Los Angeles. Prior to his first appointment, he also served as special advisor for finance and budget to Governor Tenorio, vice president/chief financial officer for Joeten En-

terprises, assistant controller for DFS Saipan Limited, and in several other accounting positions.

He has also held various key positions in regional professional organizations.



GUAM LIBERATION DAY

Santa Rita residents Dale Alvarez, left, and Mayor Joseph Wesley ride carabaos during the 64th Liberation Day festivities in Guam yesterday. The people of Guam came by the thousands and lined Marine Corps Drive from Piti to Hagatña yesterday to watch the 64th Liberation Day parade.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA

SPIKE

From Page 1

facturing industry, according to newly released government statistics and the governor's chief trade adviser.

In an interview Monday, Richard Pierce, trade adviser to Gov. Benigno Fitial, noted a 27 percent increase in user fee collections for the month of June over May's fees. June saw more than \$373,000 in fees collected, according to the new statistics, but

Pierce noted this is a mere "shadow" of the \$1.03 million in fees collected in June 2007.

June's increase is due to the seasonal ebb and flow of the garment industry, Pierce said, as the month historically has seen slight increases in garment exports. Yet the industry continues to struggle despite this slight jump with only six factories remaining on the island, including two that are poised to close.

"We have received unofficial comment from two of our remaining six

factories that they will be officially notifying the appropriate government agencies of their intent to cease operations soon," Pierce said. "This is all as a result of their inability to compete with cheaper Asian production facilities."

Production costs are key the industry's pending demise, Pierce added and the loss to the Commonwealth's economy once it is gone could prove staggering.

"It all may be a very interesting chapter in CNMI history soon enough, where a minuscule amount of produc-

tion, actually less than 1 percent of domestic capacity at our industry's height, caused an uproar big enough to have those that could have allowed this industry to continue indefinitely decide to turn their collective backs and watch it set with the sun with all its jobs, money and government revenue," he said.

Once a powerful economic engine for the CNMI, the garment industry is now facing a slow death as the costs of labor, utilities and production materials climb. The sector's decline is evident in the precipitous drop in "user fees,"

export taxes charged on garment shipments, which have seen a dramatic fall since the industry's heyday in the late 1990s.

User fee collections earned the Commonwealth more than \$35 million in 2001, for example, diminished at a more or less steady rate in the following years, according to government statistics. The steepest collection drop occurred from 2005, when the tax collected brought more than \$26 million to the Commonwealth, to 2007, when revenue totaled about \$13 million.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Under the bill approved yesterday, CUC will get a total of \$3.4 million of the Marianas Public Land Trust's income for the next two fiscal years.

CUC will use \$1.5 million as down payment for Aggreko International,

which CUC hired to bring in rental generators to Saipan. The balance will go to pay CUC's debts, with \$1.1 million going to Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. and \$800,000 to Telesource CNMI.

PMIC runs Power Plant 4, which produces almost half of Saipan's current power generation capacity. Telesource operates the power plant on Tinian.

"This new law provides much need-

ed financial relief for CUC and puts the agency in a much better position to offer more reliable public utility services," Fitial said in a statement.

"I am grateful to the Legislature for working with my administration to serve the best interests of the CNMI by helping CUC pay its debts and bring in additional power generation capacity to end the power outages," he added.

The new law also requires CUC to return the MPLT money by paying rebates to residential consumers starting January 2009, at the latest. The \$3.4 million earmark should be paid in consumer rebates over a three-year period.

Proponents of the legislation believe that CUC will be able to provide 24-hour power service once the rental generators are operational. They also

argue that the availability of emergency power will buy CUC additional time to repair its engines.

Currently, CUC generates only two-thirds of Saipan's power demand. Power Plants 1 and 4 produce a total of 27.2 MW, while the peak demand is 41 MW. Due to the lack of power supply, Saipan residents are plagued by at least two hours of power outage a day.

SEAPORT

From Page 1

Saipan because the seaport is not making enough revenue to meet bond requirements.

CPA, which is under a state of emergency originally because of problems with its airport revenue bond, has recently increased airport fees.

"With the 60 percent reduction in revenue at the Port of Saipan,

CPA expects that the debt service ratio will also become an issue for the seaport revenue bond," said Cabrera, who attributed the seaport's decreasing revenue to the decline of Saipan's garment manufacturing industry.

As with the airport revenue bond, the seaport bond indenture agreement requires CPA to make timely payments and to maintain a 1.25 revenue-to-bond payment ratio at all times in the duration of the bond.

This means for every \$1 owed on the bond, CPA must have \$1.25 of net revenue in reserve.

Citing preliminary information, Cabrera said the Port of Saipan currently has debt service coverage of 0.84, well below the requirement of 1.25. To comply with the seaport bond indenture CPA has hired BST Associates, a consulting firm based in Kenmore, Washington, which specializes in seaport rate reviews.

"As you may well know by now,

the rate study will propose rate increases which will be passed on to the shipping industry in the form of tariffs and will further affect all involved in our local economy. Unfortunately, CPA is faced with having to undertake this reality as a result of the bond indenture agreement for the seaport bond," Cabrera said.

A huge portion of CPA's \$33-million seaport bond was used to complete the \$43 million Saipan Harbor Improvement Project.

Cabrera reiterated CPA's request for the Legislature to pass a law writing off the \$6 million that CPA owes the Commonwealth Development Authority for capital improvement projects. CPA is paying CDA approximately \$68,000 a month for the loan. Cabrera said the loan forgiveness will help improve CPA's financial standing.

House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho said yesterday that the bill is still being discussed by the House leadership.

CPA moves forward with Tinian landing system

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth Ports Authority last week took an early step toward the construction of an instrument landing system at Tinian's airport, a key move for boosting tourism on the island.

CPA has offered a contract to design the system, which will help guide aircraft into Tinian's airport, to the engineering and architectural firm Thales Inc, acting CPA director Lee Cabrera said. However, the company has yet to accept the \$300,000 to \$400,000 contract officially, Cabrera added.

Local Tinian government officials have long sought the construction of the landing system to aid the island's tourism industry. Business leaders note that the task of convincing charter flight companies to serve the island has proven challenging as the absence of a landing system increases the risks associated with flying there.

Leaders in Tinian's tourism industry have also urged the landing system project's completion. In an interview Monday, Tom Liu, general manager of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, noted that many tourists visiting Tinian currently arrive on the island via Saipan, journeying from the airport to a bus to a ferry boat—an often rocky trip depending on the seas—before setting foot on the island.

"Sometimes it's not the best way to welcome them," Liu said. "It will help to have another international airport with an instrument landing system that is close to us."

Having the landing system in place will let the casino "be more aggressive" in securing charter flights to Tinian and could increase the number of visitors able to reach the casino, Liu added.

In addition, the landing system could decrease the price of chartering flights to Tinian, letting casinos devote more funds to boosting the overall number of charters that fly there, according to Phillip Mendiola-Long of the Bridge Investment Group, which is in the first phase of constructing the Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums, a new development project.

Timing the completion of the landing system with the construction of the Bridge Investment project is critical to early success of the hotel, Mendiola-Long added, as it will ensure more clients and the company is now crafting charter deals with Japanese, Korean and Chinese air carriers around the prospect of having it in place.

"This is something we've been wanting for a long time," he said, noting that the company could "tinker with the construction timeline" to coordinate with the landing system plan.

A third hotel and casino proj-

ect is also planned on Tinian yet representatives of it could not be reached at press time. Meanwhile, CPA staff engineer

Ed Mendiola noted the landing system will likely serve as a

"useful tool" for landing on the island during storms.



CK ACCIDENT

Police officers interview relatives of a man who was hit by a car near the Bank of Saipan in Chalan Kanoa Saturday evening. Police have yet to release details of the accident but sketchy reports say the victim sustained broken bones.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

POLICE BRIEFS

Man arrested for allegedly raping neighbor twice

A 35-year-old man allegedly raped his neighbor twice at her barracks in Tanapag last month.

Police arrested the suspect, Rolando P. Mangalinao, last Friday for sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree.

The victim was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center after she complained of severe pain in her rib cage.

A doctor who checked the victim told police that the rib was "definitely cracked" as he could easily feel that the bone was not intact.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo set the bail at \$50,000.

The preliminary hearing was set for July 31 at 9am.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that she first learned of the incident from the manager of Guma Esperanza, a local shelter.

Ozawa said she received a call from Guma Esperanza three weeks ago that the victim was taken to CHC for severe pain in her rib cage.

During her interview with the victim, Ozawa found that the victim had moved into the barracks in Tanapag last year and had known Mangalinao since that time.

Mangalinao allegedly raped the victim inside her room twice within the span of two days, resulting in the trauma to the victim's rib cage. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Intoxicated woman allegedly beat up husband

An alleged intoxicated woman allegedly beat up her husband during an argument early Saturday morning at their residence in Puerto Rico.

Annette Jones Castro, 36, was arrested for assault, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

Castro's husband suffered a laceration on the left cheek.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$1,000 cash bail and a \$9,000 unsecured bond for Castro's temporary liberty.

Detective Elias Q. Saralu stated in the report that Castro had called police at 1:24am Saturday to ask that they report to her residence before she kills her husband.

Castro assaulted her husband with a variety of weapons in response to an argument over his ex-girlfriend. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Man in fake marriage gets 18 mos. in prison

The federal court yesterday sentenced to 18 months in prison a man who engaged in a fake marriage to obtain an Immediate Relative status.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Mohamad Ruhul Amin to spend a total of one year and six months in prison for conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government, false statement in application for a passport, and subordination of perjury.

Munson gave Amin credit for the time he has already served in jail.

After completing his prison

sentence, the defendant will be placed on three years supervised release.

Among the conditions of the supervised release is that Amin, a Bangladeshi, shall be turned over to an immigration official for deportation and that he shall perform 50 hours of community service.

Munson ordered the defendant to pay a \$300 special assessment fee.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley recommended a sentence of 18 months in prison followed by supervised release.

Attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Amin, moved for a sentence of time served.

After the hearing, the judge remanded Amin into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

A jury rendered a guilty verdict against the defendant on March 12.

O'Malley stated in the indictment that on May 9, 2007, Amin married Rose Mayo Reyes, a U.S. citizen. O'Malley said the purpose of the marriage was to enable Amin to obtain IR status under the CNMI immigration laws.

In exchange for the marriage,

Amin allegedly provided Reyes with money and gifts worth several hundreds of dollars.

O'Malley said the two never lived and never intended to live together as husband and wife.

On Aug. 23, 2007, Amin asked

Reyes to submit an application for her U.S. passport that would identify him as Reyes' spouse.

On that day, Reyes submitted a Form DS-11 to the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan, indicating that she was married to

Amin and replacing her family name with his.

Reyes pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting an attempted illegal entry into the U.S. Last June, she was sentenced to two years of probation. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Man'amko donate \$100 for Chamorro conference

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

The local *man'amko* association has donated \$100 for the 3rd Annual Chamorro Conference that will be held on Saipan from Sept. 26 to 27 at the Saipan World Resort.

The committee will now conduct event preparation meetings in the Office of Aging conference room every Thursday.

The conference will focus on efforts to keep traditional Chamorro culture alive by encouraging local youth to learn and speak the Chamorro language. This will be the event's third year, as well as Saipan's first opportunity to act as host.

The event was inaugurated in Guam in 2006 and traveled to Rota the following year. Next year's conference will be hosted by Tinian.

"I think the \$100 donation from the *man'amko* is a great way to start preparing. We know that September may be still far, but the *man'amko* were really eager and happy; they look forward to this and they were the first one to approach [us] and made the donation," said Office of Aging director Howard Macaranas.

Man'amko chairman Frank Reyes and the program's senior citizens were glad to make a donation in support of Chamorro culture, he added.

The *man'amko* donation will

go toward the \$1,200 needed to cover conference expenses.

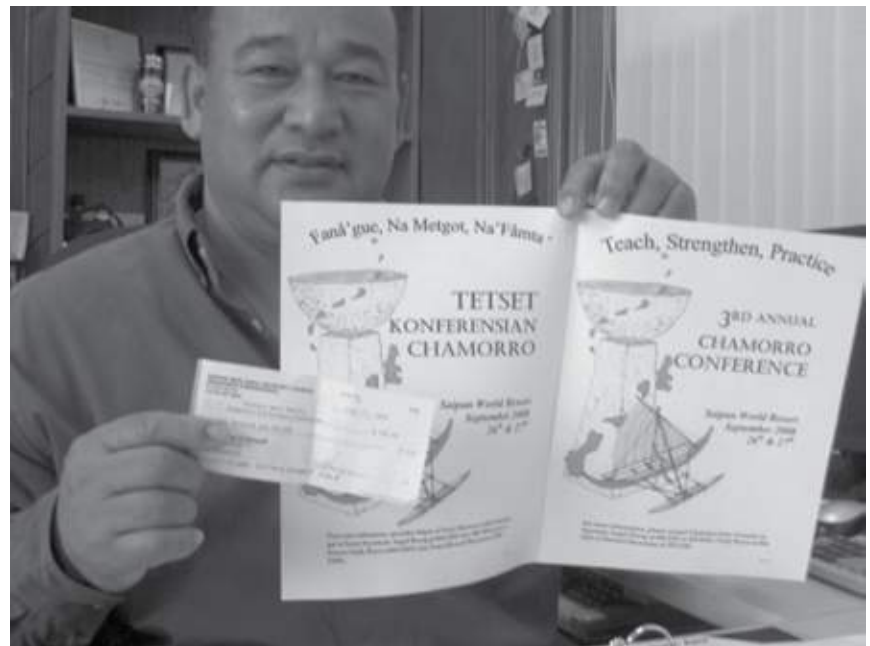
"I will be posting out fliers out in the markets today so that the community will know [about the conference]," he added.

This year's theme is "Teach, Strengthen, Practice." The logo is a mixture of colorful images, including the traditional canoe, latte stones and a representation of the islands.

"We will be using this logo every year now; only the theme will be changing each year," he added.

Keynote speakers from Hawaii will be present at the event.

For more information, call Office of Aging's Macaranas at 233-1321.



Howard Macaranas holds up this year 3rd Annual Chamorro Conference flier and the \$100 donation from the *man'amko*. Macaranas is part of the committee that is organizing the conference that will be held on Sept. 26-27. JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ



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If you speak either Korean, Russian or Japanese fluently, and want to work in a dynamic guest-oriented environment - then we may have a position for you!

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Must be US citizen, CNMI resident or have IR status.

Contact our friendly Human Resources Department at 234-7976 or email your resume to hr@picsaipan.com.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately \$300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2008 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Name: Geneva L.B. Rahman
Address: Kagman III
P.O. Box 504122 CK
Telephone No.: c/o 256-6166
or 256-0210

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Change of Name of:) FCD CN
) CIVIL
) ACTION
GENEVA L.B.) NO. 08-0186
RAHMAN,)
Minor)
Petitioner.) NOTICE
) OF
) HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Name: Lourdes S. Borja
Address:
Telephone No.: 256-6166/256-0210

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Change of Name of:) FCD CN
) CIVIL
) ACTION
LUNESA B.) NO. 08-0328
RAHMAN,)
Minor)
By:) NOTICE
) OF
) HEARING
LOURDES S.)
BORJA,)
Petitioner.)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Name: Lourdes S. Borja
Address:
Telephone No.: 256-6166/256-0210

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Change of Name of:) FCD CN
) CIVIL
) ACTION
LELANI B.) NO. 08-0329
RAHMAN,)
Minor)
By:) NOTICE
) OF
) HEARING
LOURDES S.)
BORJA,)
Petitioner.)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

10th Pacific arts fest begins in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Around 2,000 artists from 22 Pacific Island countries and territories celebrated the official opening of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts Monday in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

The festival is the Pacific's largest regional cultural gathering and has brought people together from throughout the Pacific region every four years since 1972. The event is a unique opportunity to promote cultural exchange and regional unity as well as to focus on issues such as changing Pacific identities.

Over the next fortnight, a diverse range of art forms will be showcased at the festival including visual, performing, culinary, literary and traditional healing arts. Participants will also take part in symposia on arts and culture.

There is an air of festivity on American Samoa's main island of Tutuila, where the entire population has turned out to welcome the visitors and residents have been applying the finishing touches to colorful decorations. Coconuts, stacked in neat columns and spray painted gold, red, blue, white and yellow adorn the fronts of houses. Flowers woven into palm fronds decorate roadside posts and shop-front pillars. Garden walls have been freshly painted and signs beside the road welcome visitors to American Samoa and the festival.

Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde, co-chairperson of the Festival Organizing Committee, says preparing for the festival has strengthened the community's sense of pride and cultural identity. "Everyone is looking forward not only to displaying our own culture, but to sharing the cultures of our Pacific brothers and sisters."

Langkilde says that with the help of the local community, the organizing committee has managed to overcome major challenges in terms of logistics and budgets. "At this point it's all come together and we're very proud that we're ready for the festival. The community has shown support in every way possible and has put out the welcome mat for our visitors."

He says the highlight of this evening's opening ceremony will be the parade of countries.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community plays a supporting role to the host country by providing interpretation services. SPC's Human Development Adviser for Culture, Dr. Elise Huffer, says the festival is an opportunity to celebrate culture, an integral component of the daily life of Pacific people, and to highlight its contribution to the vitality and well being of contemporary Pacific societies.

"Culture is the basis of people's lives and the festival is a unique event that brings the whole region together, allowing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcoming party awaits visitors arriving in American Samoa.

countries to share their diverse practices and art forms, and through these express their values," says Huffer. "It is an opportunity for renewing past links and for forging future directions, and for intergenerational communication to take place. The symposia also allow for reflection on important contemporary issues such as the protection and promotion of traditional knowl-

edge and expressions of culture, and on how young people can benefit from engaging in cultural activities."

During the festival, the Council of Pacific Arts, the regional body that oversees the promotion of culture in the Pacific, will meet to discuss a range of issues, including where the 12th Festival will take place in 2016. Solomon Islands will host the

11th Festival in 2012 and will present a report on its preparations to the Council members. The meeting, convened by SPC, will take place on July 23.

During the festival, SPC's HIV & STI Section, in collaboration with the American Samoan Department of Health and the Festival Organizing Committee, will run a Safe Festival campaign called *Celebrate arts and culture and respect your health*. The campaign aims to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. Two thousand backpacks containing factual information on HIV/AIDS, HIV testing, STIs and safe sex, as well as other health promotion items, are being distributed to delegates through health briefings with each country delegation. Male and female condoms will be available at various festival venues and free, confidential HIV testing will also be offered.

The festival runs until Aug. 2, although the official closing ceremony will take place on July 30. (SPC)



BELATED BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Reinabel C. Baltazar. Greetings coming from Papa Ranie, Mama Isabel, and Tita Cla. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 7th birthday to Tommy Gregory Pangelinan Basa today, July 22.

Greetings from Daddy, Mommy, Dylon, and Tho'leyan Dyommy. We love you!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Saipan-Guam Office 888.8888 | iconnectsaipan.com



Guam's two fallen sons arrive

Two of Guam's native sons, both casualties of the war in Afghanistan, arrived home Saturday afternoon and early Sunday morning to a welcoming group consisting of military

officials, members of the 29th Guam Legislature, Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco, and hundreds of family and friends.

The body of Guam Army National Guard

Sgt. Samson Mora arrived in Guam Saturday morning, while that of Sgt. Brian Leon Guerrero arrived Sunday morning. Here are some pictures from the two events:



Comrades of fallen Guam Army National Guard Sgt. Brian Leon Guerrero honor him with a salute Sunday morning.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA

The Mora family stand beside the casket containing the body of Guam Army National Guard Sgt. Samson Mora Saturday afternoon.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA



The Northwest Airlines flight carrying the remains of fallen Guam Army National Guard Sgt. Samson Mora is welcomed home with a water salute at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Saturday afternoon.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA



The widow of fallen Guam Army National Guard Sgt. Brian Leon Guerrero weeps over the coffin of her husband early Sunday morning.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA



Members of the Guam National Guard unfold the American Flag before draping the coffin of fallen Guam Army National Guard Sgt. Brian Leon Guerrero early Sunday morning.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 22, 1999

Charge students for books, buses

Two members of the Board of Education are pressing the Public School System to consider charging students for bus ride and use of books as a way of raising revenues for the agency. "We cannot continue complaining about this budget crisis. We have to raise our own money by being creative," board member Anthony Pellegrino said during the BOE meeting Tuesday. Pellegrino noted that several other government agencies are implementing their own fund-raising measures to meet their financial needs.

Another takeover hearing in Sept. 16

After the scheduled hearing next month by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Northern Marianas leaders will face its House counterpart for another oversight set in September 16 in Washington D.C. House Resources Committee chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) said the forthcoming hearing will tackle enforcement of federal laws and the use of federal funds in the Commonwealth.

Ports authority ready for the millennium bug

All systems at the airport and seaport are now Y2K compliant except the Security Access Control System, ruling out any possibility of a computer shutdown brought about by the millennium bug. The Commonwealth Ports Authority's Y2K Task Force made sure that all software, hardware and embedded systems are able to process dates near and beyond Jan. 1, 2000 correctly.

July 22, 2002

"Heinz offered to step down"

The proposed hike in the user's fee has become a divisive force in the House of Representatives, with House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider reportedly offering to step down as Speaker during Friday's leadership meeting and with the leadership vigorously opposing the offer. This development came even as about 150 local workers from the different garment manufacturers in Saipan converged in front of the Legislature building to rally against the 1.3 percent user's fee hike, which they said would lead to massive job layoffs and the potential closure of several factories.

Ralliers descend on Legislature to protest user fee hike

More than 150 local employees of garment manufacturers on Saipan rallied in front of the Legislature building Friday and called on lawmakers not to pass the proposed 1.3 percent increase on user's fee. Appealing to lawmakers to protect their families and ensure their continued employment, the ralliers peacefully marched to the Legislature building around 8:30am and met with about five lawmakers, who promised to review the measure thoroughly.

CDA prods 378 delinquent borrowers

The Commonwealth Development Authority ordered 378 delinquent borrowers to discuss alternative measures that would prevent the agency from foreclosing existing businesses in the Northern Marianas. The CDA Board has laid out a win-win measure for both the government-lending agency and its delinquent borrowers during its recent board meeting.

July 22, 2003

DPH mum on new AIDS cases

The Department of Public Health has remained silent on the reported two new cases of AIDS this year in the CNMI. Reached repeatedly yesterday for any details on the two cases, as reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DPH acting secretary Pete Untalan declined to be interviewed citing "a very busy" schedule.

Two A. Samoa customs officers train on Saipan

The CNMI Pacific Region Detector Dog Training Center began its 10-week K9 Detector Dog Handling training program for two American Samoa custom officials who arrived Sunday last week, it was disclosed yesterday. Customs director John Santos said the two officials-Polo Fruean and Iuliano Falaniko-would be undergoing a two-and-a-half month extensive training that would deal on dog detector handling to help them improve their custom inspection procedures.

CNMI students excel in drama competition

Marianas High School sophomore Kyoung Min Park won second place in the costume design competition at the 2008 International Thespian Festival. Kagman High school sophomore Miki Nadia Dela Cruz finished in the Top 10 in solo musical theatre. MHS junior Sung Yul (Tommy) Baik received eight call-backs from U.S. colleges auditioning and recruiting students.

Fifteen students from CNMI middle and high schools recently joined thousands of other students from around the world at the 2008 International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska. The festival ran from June 23 to June 28 and featured competitions, stage productions, workshops and college auditions, along with an auction of movie and stage memorabilia and four themed dances. Students came from the United States (including our CNMI students), Australia, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

Approximately 400 of the more than 3,000 students in attendance qualified to compete in the Individual Events Showcase (I.E.) competitions. Each student may only compete in a single category. Categories include monologue, duet acting, solo mime, duet mime, solo musical theatre, duet musical theatre, group musical theatre, costume design, set design, film, stage management and the technical crew challenge.

All fifteen CNMI students qualified and competed in the I.E. competitions. CNMI students represented Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Hopwood Junior High School, Mount Carmel School, and the Saipan American Education Foundation School. They

were chosen by accumulating the top cumulative scores in local Thespian competitions throughout the academic year. They competed at the festival in monologue, duet acting, duet mime, solo musical theatre, costume design, set design and film.

Students received individual ratings of superior, excellent, good or fair for each performance, as well as an overall rating.

Every CNMI competitor was rated excellent or superior for at least one performance. The overall scores received were as follows:

■ MHS-Kyoung Min (Kay) Park, costume design—2 superiors, 1 excellent;

■ KHS-Miki Nadia Dela Cruz, solo musical theatre—2 superiors, 1 excellent;

■ SSHS-Ryan Gutierrez & Richille Denora, duet acting—; 1 superior; 2 excellents;

■ SSHS-Johnna Lubuguin, monologue—1 superior, 1 excellent, 1 good;

■ MHS-Sung Yul (Tommy) Baik and Moon Hyo Lee, duet mime—2 excellents;



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
High school thespians pose back-stage before presenting Cinderella Wore Combat Boots at the Carson Theatre in Nebraska.

■ SAEFS-Reese Brown, monologue—3 excellents;

■ MCS-Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, solo musical theatre—2 excellents, 1 good;

■ MHS-Matthew Wheat, film—1 excellent, 2 goods;

■ MHS-Myrene Evangelista, set design—3 goods;

■ MCS—Sung Woo (Jim-

my) Baik and Victor Sablan—2 goods;

■ HJHS—Royze Banados and Dayanara Flores—1 excellent, 1 good, 1 fair.

Both Kay Park and Miki Nadia Dela Cruz, with their exceptionally good ratings, won special recognition on the program for the Individual Events Showcase.

Besides competing in the I.E., CNMI students also staged two group plays. The junior thespians staged a one-act comedic take-off on Romeo and Juliet called An Evening of Culture, Faith County II, by Mark Landon Smith. The senior thespians presented Cinderella Wore Combat Boots, another one-act production. The plays were well-received by hundreds of student thespians.

One of the most important features of the ITS Festival for CNMI students is the college audition. High school juniors may sign up to present a short 2 to 3 minute piece before representatives from 40 U.S. colleges and universities. Many college drama and music programs require auditions before admission. Most CNMI students cannot readily afford to travel to the unified college auditions held in various cities around the U.S., which makes

the festival's college audition is a great opportunity.

This year, MHS junior Tommy Baik received callbacks, a step in the recruitment process, from eight different colleges. He continues the trend of success by CNMI students at college auditions. Former CNMI students who have obtained college admission and financial aid from recruitment as a result of the festival's audition opportunity include Rose Wakit, Tommy Shim and Jennifer Jang.

CNMI students attended the national cast production of Hairspray and watched other schools' staged productions of Chicago, Little Shop Of Horrors, Anatomy of Gray and Noises Off. They took advantage of workshops in areas from salsa dancing to mime taught by professionals in the industry.

The annual ITS Festival provides a unique opportunity for CNMI students to meet other performing arts students from around the world, measure their own progress against the best students competing, learn from different top-notch drama professionals and take in the wide array of culture and art that is embedded in performed drama. (PR)

KICKOFF & RALLY KICKOFF & RALLY KICKOFF & RALLY

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YOUR U.S. Congressional Non-Voting Delegate.



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DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Appearing for Petitioner
MARIA S. MONTON

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF) CIVIL ACTION
PABLO LAGUADIA SOLOMON and) NO. 08-0240
BRIGIDA BAMBALAN SOLOMON,)
Deceased.) NOTICE OF
HEARING

TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that MARIA S. MONTON, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Pablo Laguardia Solomon and Brigida Bambalan Solomon, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The Attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for July 29, 2008, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 pm. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
/s/ Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Development Authority

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



RFP NO.: 2008-CDA-05-RFP

Closing Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the specifications may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 1st Floor, Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Saipan, during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, P&S



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Opinion

Hafa Adali!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Risk aversion

You know the financial system is in trouble when Washington has to insist that it's not. Last week, President Bush found himself obliged to remind people that their bank deposits were federally insured. After a hearing Tuesday on bailing out mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., announced that "the Fannie and Freddie situation is actually a lot better than certainly the fear would have indicated."

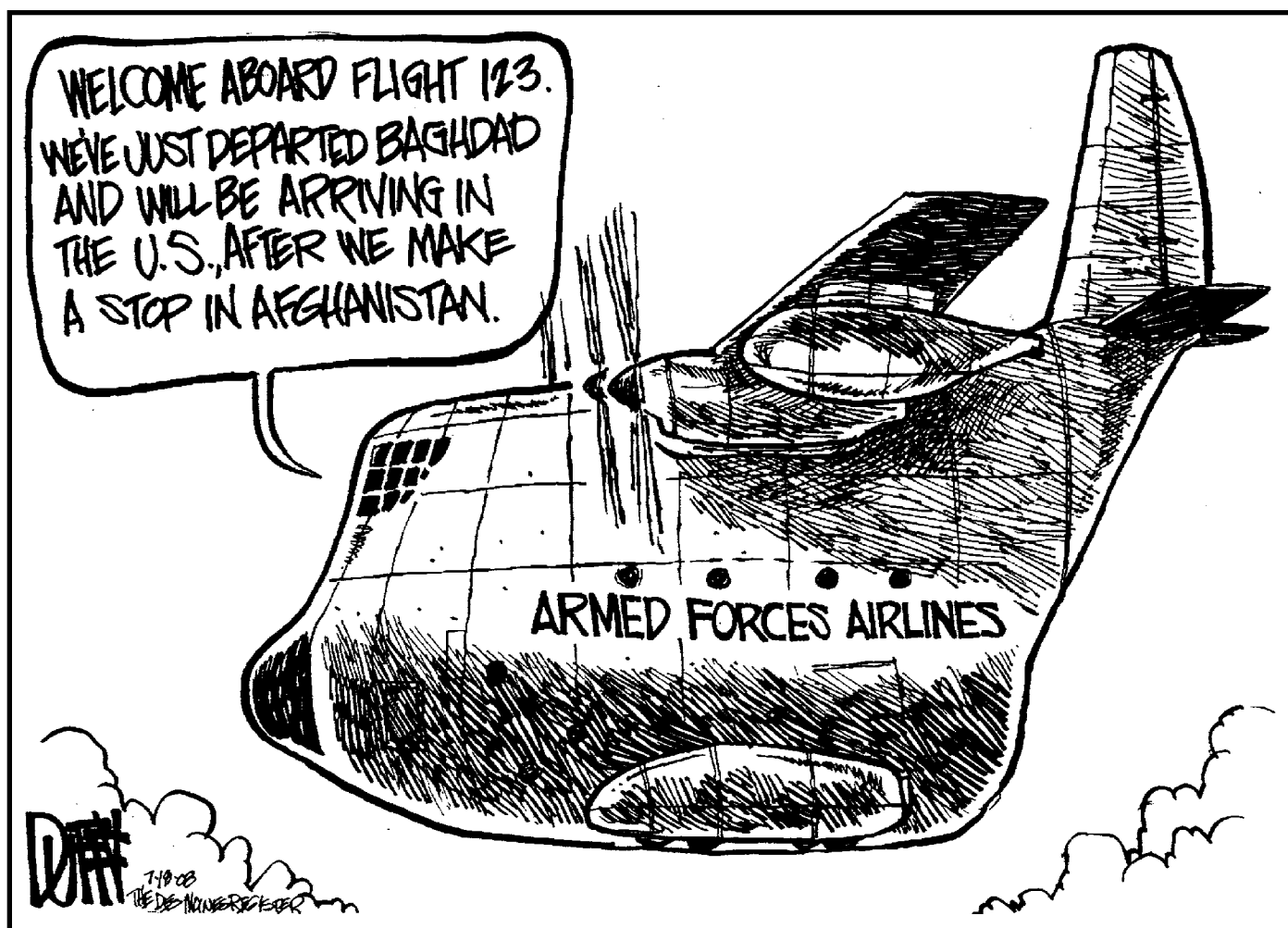
Do they protest too much? Certainly, last week's turbulence shows that the financial stability of the United States is in doubt — and that political leadership can help restore it. At some point, however, government must move beyond reassuring words and episodic bailouts and address the fundamental problem: The financial system has taken on more risk than its capital base will support. In the long run, the United States needs to modernize financial regulation so that unsustainable risks are not only swiftly corrected but prevented. There is no more important economic issue facing the country; financial crises, including a Fannie-Freddie crunch, may occupy the next president's first 100 days.

Barack Obama and John McCain have made plenty of promises about jobs, taxes and the housing market. But on the big picture they've had less to say. In March, Mr. Obama gave a thoughtful speech in which he argued for regulating financial institutions based on their actual function in the economy, not on whether they are labeled investment banks or commercial banks. Equally wisely, he proposed linking government bailouts with tighter government regulation for the recipients. Less convincingly, he called for a commission to warn about broad risks to the financial system. It's unclear whether the panel would have any power, or simply duplicate the many fine reports on systemic risk already produced by think tanks.

Mr. McCain also last addressed financial stability in the early spring, speaking with a stronger free-market accent and in even less detail than did Mr. Obama. He was right to say that "government assistance to the banking system should be based solely on preventing systemic risk that would endanger the entire financial system and the economy." But that does not necessarily rule out very many bailouts, all of which tend to be justified on that basis. He would encourage increased capital in financial institutions "by removing regulatory, accounting and tax impediments to raising capital" and suggested that current "mark to market" accounting rules might be "exacerbating the credit crunch."

Neither candidate has addressed the growing role of the Federal Reserve in financial oversight. Are these prospective presidents comfortable with the Fed as a guarantor against "systemic risk," as some have suggested? Or would that conflict with the Fed's inflation-fighting mission and draw it into political battles? Both campaigns told us these were legitimate questions; neither would answer them. Even on the prospect of a massive taxpayer bailout for Fannie and Freddie, the candidates are reticent. Mr. Obama has said that he might be for it, if it protects taxpayers and does not bail out shareholders and management. Mr. McCain, who has supported reining in government-sponsored enterprises as a senator, says about the same. The voters are entitled to a much more robust debate on the country's financial stability, and sooner rather than later.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Roadside Pleas(e)

Thou shalt not give

I see an odd contradiction in the fact that many of the same people ranting indignantly about how unsafe it is for groups to stand by the road to solicit funds for some cause seem to be perfectly happy with groups of people standing by the road to protest some policy of CUC. Apparently it is only unsafe if the complainers have to shell out a couple of bucks for a cause. Apparently it is only unsafe if the complainers are not the ones standing there beside the road themselves showing their "solidarity" with some other protest group with a sign-waving campaign.

It is both common practice and traditional here to use the "traffic method" of fundraising for everything from cancer awareness to baseball clubs. Sometimes roadside fundraisers are trying to generate money for the catastrophic personal illness of a loved one or friend so they can have a chance at life. Sometimes it is students trying to get money for a field trip or for some extracurricular sports activity that PSS has no funds to support.

In those rare cases where there really might be a safety violation, there are plenty of applicable rules on the books that DPS can use to quash unsafe roadside activities. We do not need laws on top of laws to micromanage our lives and the lives of those who simply want to get a message out or to try to raise a buck for a good cause.

Making a law that forbids this practice based on the assumption that "someday" someone may be hurt standing beside the road is an intrusion into the rights of every citizen to gather and state their case. Spending time making laws against this kind of benign behavior is simply a waste of time and effort. There are plenty of important things for our lawmakers to focus on. This is not one of them. This is a prime example of a proposed regulation that inhibits our freedoms while pretending to save us from ourselves. We can take care of ourselves, thank you. Parents can decide for their own children whether this is a practice they want them to engage in. We don't need another law to restrict our choices.

Whatever the reason a group has for roadside fundraising, be it serious or flippant, do they not have the right to ask for your support? *You* can then decide whether to help their cause or not. Do you need a law that forbids you from donating? I submit that you do not.

■ ■ ■ ■

Party crasher

I dropped by the home of a friend that was doing some work for me to discuss the strategy of repairs. When I drove up there was a gathering of folks sitting around tables under a tent obviously enjoying a party of some sort. In U.S. culture it would be considered rude to invite yourself to a party, so I was about to drive off and come again some other time. Luckily here in the Marianas, close to Asian culture and with centuries of welcoming tradition by the indigenous islanders, I was welcomed; no I was commanded to join in the festivities. This was a birthday party thrown by Filipinos but only the language being spoken and some food variations differentiated it from the many wonderful Chamorro and Carolinian gatherings I've

SOUR GRAPES

BRUCE A. BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. Yes, he is opinionated. bbateman@pticom.com



been invited to join. The welcome was the same.

I was helped to embarrassing quantities of delicious food and was "forced" (yeah sure) to drink some beer, chat happily and enjoy fellowship with the group, most of whom I had not met before. It was a refreshing and fun experience. One that I have had repeatedly here and one that I hope to repeat many times in the future. What a wonderful experience it is to meet new people and share their ideas. Celebrating life is one of the best things we humans do. It helps to make up for the times when we do harm to each other.

The point is that in the rush to be more American, to assimilate that financially successful culture and make it part of local island life, it is possible to lose some of the core beliefs that make this culture unique. The "separate individual" culture nurtured in the U.S. where people often live for years in an area where they do not know or associate with their neighbors is not something this place should emulate. I am not suggesting a return to full communal life, but I am sounding a warning that taking on the mantle of change offered by those who come here from afar or from those who leave here to be educated elsewhere is not always advisable. That mantle of change can be protective, and it can also be destructive. In the midst of all the technical things that need improvement here resides the reality of a wonderful place to live. I for one am thankful to be here, power outages or not.

When I first came here many years ago I was happily surprised by the welcoming nature of the people's who call these islands home. I still find myself enthralled by the giving and friendly nature of the Marianas population. Carolinians and Chamorros hosting Filipinos, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thais, and even a few U.S. mainlanders, Russians, Bangladeshis, Europeans and others who all manage to get along pretty well here. Better than most disparate populations get along, that's for sure. The level of mutual assistance and reciprocal aid is refreshing too.

For all our faults and petty grievances, this is still a great place to be, and a traditional party is a great way to express our joy. Now where did I put that ab toning machine?

■ ■ ■ ■

Post Toasties

Note to Postmaster Medina: I read your letter in the *Saipan Tribune*. My latest "lost" package arrived. It took a month to get here by
See ROADSIDE on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ain't no cure for the summertime news

By **ANDY BOROWITZ**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

From my cable-news viewing to date, I offer this summertime roundup.

Pain at the pump: Americans are spending more money than ever at the pump this summer. The reason? Rising gas prices. With gas soaring above \$4 a gallon, consumers are finding it more expensive to fill up the family car than when gas cost \$3 a gallon. And don't expect the pain at the pump to get better any time soon. According to experts, gas prices will continue to be sky-high until they go down.

Attractive white woman found: An attractive white woman who failed to show up for a spinning class in Denver on Tuesday morning turned up safe and sound Tuesday afternoon. Kimberley McGivers, whom friends describe as attractive and white, said she forgot she had spinning and went to the mall instead. But a police spokesman warned the public against a false sense of security: "If you are white, a woman and somewhat attractive, you are at risk of being reported as missing this summer."

Celebrity divorces pound Northeast: Residents from Manhattan to Islip braced themselves as celebrity divorces continued to pound the East Coast. What can you do to stay out of the destructive path of a messy celebrity split-up? Experts say stay indoors, stock up on

water and foodstuffs and avoid horny architects and the Kabbalah.

Polygamy mystery deepens: It's been weeks since there's been any news out of the polygamist compound that was raided in Texas, but that doesn't keep our Special Investigations Unit from digging deeper and looking for answers. One mystery endures: Why did the compound's wives don such unflattering outfits and hairdos? According to one expert, "We're learning much more about what happened inside that compound, but we still don't know why they didn't dress better."

Sharks predict big summer: Sharks are predicting that 2008 will be their best summer ever, says a spokesman for the nation's sharks. What's behind the anticipated increase in shark attacks? Rising gas prices. Feeling the pain at the pump, Americans are staying off the road and going to the beach -- where they are more likely to be eaten by sharks. What should you do if a shark eats you? According to one expert, "You can't do anything. If you're eaten by a shark, you're, like, in a lot of little pieces in the shark's tummy. What kind of question is that? Come on, guys."

Stretching vacation dollar\$: With all the talk about Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the imminent collapse of the global financial system, where are the vacation deals this summer? Well, here's a tip from the editors of Budget Money magazine: Instead of taking that dream trip you've been planning for months, stay home and drink. With the cost of air travel even more painful than the pump, sitting

on your couch and getting hammered could be the vacation bargain you've been looking for. Other top travel destinations include weed, crack and crystal meth.

McMahon says no deck: Former "Tonight Show" sidekick Ed McMahon's financial woes forced him to cancel plans to build a mahogany deck on his Beverly Hills home, McMahon said in an exclusive interview with Larry King. He went public about his troubled deck to draw attention to a problem affecting millions of Americans: "There are lots of folks out there who have canceled their decks," he said, "and I want them to know they're not alone." King's interview with McMahon can be seen every night and will be repeated every hour until someone makes it stop.

Moose on the loose: And finally, an update on "Sandy," the renegade moose that terrorized vacationers on a Rhode Island beach. No one knows exactly how Sandy wound up on the beach, but moose experts have one theory: rising gas prices. With fewer SUVs on the road, moose are realizing that they have a better chance of crossing the highway safely—and that is making for a bolder, more obnoxious breed of moose. As for Sandy, this is one story with a happy ending: Before he could do any harm, he charged into the ocean and was eaten by a shark.

Andy Borowitz is a comedian and the creator of the award-winning satire Web site, BorowitzReport.com.

Mental health: Strength in mind, body and soul

By **JIM RAYPHAND**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Jim Rayphand is the acting executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

I am not an expert on mental health issues; however, I have learned a great deal about the importance of proper mental health care and the general culture of denial about mental illness, the disability you can't always see. Part of what I'm about to say may sound shocking to some and possibly even offend others—I hope it will serve only as a catalyst for talking points on the issues surrounding our community's needs with respect to mental health services.

Despite all that I know about mental health services and with the exception of some reluctant attempts to sit through a couple of shrink sessions with my ex-wife, I have avoided psychiatric counseling like the plague. ...not because I don't think it works, but because I find it to be a direct invasion of my privacy. To date, I have absolutely refused to lay myself out on the proverbial couch for anyone to get in touch with my personal demons whatever those may be. I'll hear you knocking, but you can't come in. And so through all the good I have seen by way of modern methods for psychotherapy, I still find the whole notion of traditional psychiatric counseling repulsive, intrusive and downright unnatural. After a hard day's work, what I want is a cold beer, a smoky cigar and a few good friends. ... that's what I call therapy, but here's the rub: This timeless method for personal therapy does little more than temporarily distract me from the general stressors of my life and in some ways actually perpetuates them with the collateral damage of hangovers, chronic obesity and other general health concerns. I said give me a cold beer, but the reality is I rarely have just one. So, herein lies the primary barrier to appropriate mental health care. Some of us simply don't accept when something may be wrong within our psyche, we won't buy into psychotherapy and we choose unhealthy alternatives often in the form of self-medication to cope with our day-to-day angst.

As I started thinking about ways to achieve better mental health for myself, I began to look a little more closely at existing systems for mental health care in the CNMI. Sadly, in my opinion, the outlook is bleak. For one thing, there is no psychiatrist on island, thus we lack a very crucial piece of the medical model for psychiatric treatment. To my understanding, psychiatrists, unlike psychologists, are licensed to prescribe psychotropic medication on which numerous people rely. Currently, our Department of Public Health relies on a couple of its general practitioners to manage the caseloads for mental health treatment in addition to the regular workload of patients with other types of ailments, certainly not the ideal by any standard. I know of at least one instance whereby it took over a week for one psychiatric patient just to make contact with the doctor in charge of handling psychiatric needs. Beyond that, it is not uncommon for people to try and access services through our lone psychiatric ward only to be turned away at the door for reasons of which none seem to make much sense in the face of a psychiatric meltdown. The results of these gaps in mental health services have led to some extremely sad outcomes, including one instance wherein a young man stabbed another person multiple times shortly after being turned away from the psychiatric ward where he was trying to check himself in because he was "hearing voices". That young man has been in jail since for murder, a tragedy that arguably could have been avoided with an appropriate response system for people in psychiatric crisis. Another incident involved a young lady who lit herself on fire sometime shortly after being denied access to the psychiatric ward. And then there is the story of another young lady being picked up by the police for causing a public disturbance only moments again after being directed away from the ward where she was trying to get help. The point being that the mental health system as we know it leaves much to be desired and this lack of an effective system of care poses yet another major barrier in the general quest for good mental health. It seems the reality of life in the CNMI is that most of our critical service areas are in dire need of an upgrade.

In recent years there has been a growing voice from among recipients of mental health services that is beginning to challenge the traditional views of mental health care with a paradigm shift in thinking

away from the medical model of treatment to a broader, more earthly approach at wellness. Proponents of the "wellness plan" essentially argue that in order to get better, people with mental illness need to foster a sense of peace in and around themselves through an environment of supportive and mutually respectful peers. They might argue further that a typical treatment facility with a prison-like atmosphere and authoritarian wards goes against the grain of a true path to recovery. Additionally some debate that psychotropic drugs do little more than sedate feelings of torment whereas a daily dose of healthy activities (i.e., exercise and/or relaxation) can actually have a healing effect. In short, a wellness plan looks to develop a person's strength in mind, body and soul independent of artificial drugs and the illogical settings of traditional treatment facilities. For lack of a better way to describe it, a wellness plan looks to draw strength from the positive vibrations of life, the natural mystic as it were—the presumption is that we all have an inherent capacity to be high on life.

Ultimately, every individual with a mental illness is just that, an individual, so contrary to what the different schools-of-thought may suggest, there really is no one-size-fits-all treatment plan for all people with mental illness.

The problem, and yet another significant barrier to good mental health, is our very human tendency to close ourselves off from possibilities outside of what we've been taught. The medical doctor may dismiss the notion of a holistic cure in lieu of a carefully scripted regimen of drugs and the natural healer may view artificial pills as the source of all evil. The fact is some people function very well with their mental illness without prescribed drugs and others simply do not. We are an ever-evolving, multi-faceted phenomenon, so what works today may not work tomorrow and what works for Dick might not work for Jane. Sometimes the best we can hope for is to live out our days in the comforting embrace of people who love, respect and support us. I personally don't know of a better wellness plan.

For more on services for individuals with mental illness and people with other disabilities, please feel free to call NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice], 235-7278 [tty], 235-7275 [fax] or check us out on-line at www.nmpasi.com.

Letters to the Editor

Swimming in the eye of the storm

While the general elections are coming around the corner next year, one should take the opportunity to start looking ahead in the right direction.

At this point in time it is premature to underestimate the Fitial administration come the general elections next year. This is to say that the election next year will possibly be a four-way race.

In consideration of all the economic problems that we are now facing in the CNMI, let's face the facts that these problems were never created by Governor Fitial in the first place. We should look back at history and read what it has spoken

of in the past.

The general elections next year will not be about what jobs will be promised to you. It will be about performance and experience of swimming inside the eye of the storm. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has demonstrated so far his experience and courage of what it takes to swim in the eye of the storm we now face here in the CNMI.

God bless Gov. Ben R. Fitial, now and in the future.

Martin M. Sakisat
San Jose Tinian

Finally, meaningful appointments

It is gratifying to see that the Governor's office has finally appointed some very capable people to an important board—CPA. I've known Manny Villagomez, Thomas Villagomez and Absalon Waki, Jr. For quite a long time. These three as well as Joe Lifofoi and Frank Camacho will serve this board well. I don't know Miriam Seman or Barry Toves, but it appears that we will finally have a board, if all are confirmed, that will serve CPA well—and it just may be the first time. Congratulations to all of you.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

ROADSIDE

From Page 10

Priority Mail, and had been smashed, dashed, crashed and hashed

en route. It had been cut open; I suppose to check on the suitability of children's clothing and a package of yellow rice being used as fodder for terrorists. Usually when a package goes missing, that puppy is gone forever. This one at least arrived. Thanks for tracking it down...and thanks for reading Sour Grapes.

■ ■ ■ ■






Quote of the week: You only have to bat a thousand on two things; flying and heart transplants. Everything else you can go 4 for five.

—Beano Cook (1931 -)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

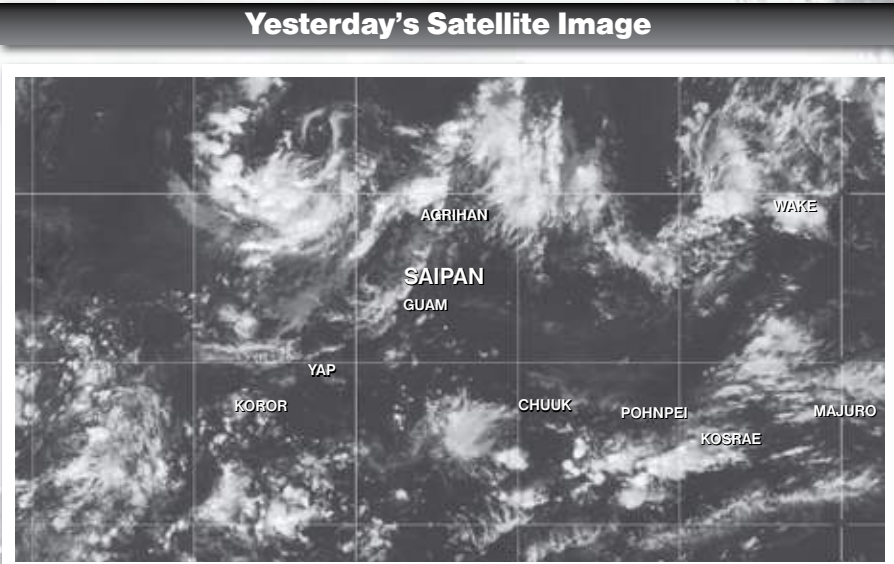
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼74

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲60 ▼48
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲93 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼63
Manila	Cloudy	▲91 ▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲54 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼73
Osaka	Cloudy	▲90 ▼77
Paris	Cloudy	▲74 ▼59
Pusan	Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲85 ▼54
Salem	Cloudy	▲76 ▼48
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼68
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲96 ▼72

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:32AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:22PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:03PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:45PM, MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A deep low pressure system is centered southwest of Iwo to near 22N137E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms associated with this low are found northwest of the Marianas between 18N and 25N from 131E to 140E. A low to mid-level trough extends southwestward from 25N152E to the low at 22N137E and continues southwestward to beyond 15N130E. Converging winds south of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 60 miles of a line from 17N140E to 21N146E and between 18N and 25N from 148E to 155E. A tutt cell is centered 26N161E northwest of Wake Island. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the upper level low extend south and east of the low between 18N and 25N to 160E and 170E. A weak surface trough runs from 1N134E to 5N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Koror and Yap between the equator and 3N from 130E to 140E. A surface trough extends from the equator and 157E to 5N and 158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 150E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae and Kwajalein within 100 miles of a line from 4N160E to 10N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Today	9:31PM	9:00AM
Wednesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Wednesday	10:09PM	9:51AM
Thursday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Thursday	10:09PM	9:51AM
Friday	5:58AM	6:49 PM	Friday	11:30PM	11:38AM
Saturday	5:58AM	6:49 PM	Saturday		12:36AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am	11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am	11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1 Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Seoul			Seoul-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			Guanzhou-Saipan		
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong			Hongkong-Guam		
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota			Rota-Guam		
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily	
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily	
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Paulson braces public for tough times

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson sought to reassure an anxious public Sunday that the banking system is sound, while also bracing people for more troubled times ahead.

"I think it's going to be months that we're working our way through this period—clearly months," he said.

Paulson said the number of troubled banks will increase as they struggle to cope with big losses on bad mortgages. The government this month took over IndyMac after a run led it to become the largest regulated thrift to fail.

"Of course the list is going to grow longer given the stresses we have in the marketplace, given the housing correction. But again, it's a safe banking system, a sound banking system. Our regulators are on top of it. This is a very manageable situation," he said in broadcast interviews.

Paulson used appearances on the Sunday talk shows to tell people that deposits up to \$100,000 are fully insured. He said no one has lost a single penny on an insured deposit in the 75 years that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has operated.

"We're going through a challenging time with our economy.



Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, left, speaks with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, as they finished their testimony before the Senate Banking Committee.

This is a tough time. The three big issues we're facing right now are, first, the housing correction which is at the heart of the slowdown; secondly, turmoil of the capital markets; and thirdly, the high oil prices, which are going to prolong the slowdown," he said.

"But remember, our economy

has got very strong long-term fundamentals, solid fundamentals. And you know, your policy-makers here, regulators, we're being very vigilant."

Paulson said he hoped Congress soon would approve his plan to help shore up Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored mortgage companies

"I'm very optimistic that we're going to get what we need from Congress here, because Congress understands how important these institutions are," Paulson said.

The House plans to vote Wednesday on a housing bill that is expected to include a rescue for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Getting lease for oil drilling is just the start

HOUSTON (AP)—The national debate over opening more offshore areas to oil and gas exploration has begged the question: Just what are the companies doing with the tens of millions of acres they're already leasing from the federal government?

In particular, congressional Democrats who oppose President Bush's plan to expand offshore drilling point to 68 million acres of federal land and offshore sites now leased by oil companies that sit idle.

It's part of nearly 2 billion acres overseen by two federal agencies—the Bureau of Land Management and the Minerals Management Service—that have potential for oil and gas exploration, the bulk of which is strictly off limits.

The acreage includes vast stretches of land that spread out over Nevada and reach north and east over the Rockies, thinning as they stretch toward Canada to disparate specs on the map.

There are smaller and more isolated patches to the east along the mountain ridges of Appalachia and further to the south above the Gulf of Mexico, and huge chunks of northern Alaska and lesser stretches on its southern banks.

A huge chunk of the overall acreage is the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, the zone of federal waters extending about 200 miles offshore.

Wall Street awaits banks, housing, oil data

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street surged higher last week, but that's cold comfort to people whose stock portfolios are still down more than 10 percent this year.

The week's better than expected earnings news, which helped the Street claw itself out of bear market territory, was hardly definitive. Quarterly results from some of the big banks came in

above forecasts, but expectations were extremely low. Crude oil prices retreated from record highs, but are still up more than 70 percent since last summer.

To be sure, some investors are hoping last week's developments were the first signs the economy would improve later this year or early next year—and after all, the stock market is considered

a leading indicator. But with the housing market still sinking—not to mention several more corporate earnings left to report—it's hard for many investors to justify big bets on an upswing.

"I think the epicenter of the whole thing has been, and continues to be, housing prices," said Bob Andres, chief investment strategist for Envestnet.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Jamaica eyes penalties for scrap metal thieves

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—A Jamaican official says far tougher fines are needed to fight thieves plundering metal from construction sites, power lines and houses. Industry and Commerce Minister Karl Samuda said Sunday that anyone caught in possession of stolen scrap or attempting to illegally export recyclable copper and other metals should be fined up to about US\$28,000. The current fine is US\$50. Parliament will take up the proposal in coming days. In an effort to stop metal theft earlier this year Jamaica placed a monthlong ban on the export of all recyclable metals. Metal thefts have skyrocketed across the globe because of high prices. Thieves cash in at scrap yards that recycle nonprecious metals.

Study: shrinking newsrooms hurting papers' quality

NEW YORK (AP)—The many and deepening cuts at newspapers across the country are starting to take a toll on their content, according to a study being released Monday. The challenge newspapers must meet immediately is to find more revenue on the Internet, according to the Project for Excellence in Journalism's study, called "The Changing Newsroom: What is Being Gained and What is Being Lost in America's Daily Newspapers." Newspaper managers need to "find a way

to monetize the rapid growth of Web readership before newsroom staff cuts so weaken newspapers that their competitive advantage disappears." Stories are shorter overall, the study found, and staff coverage tends to focus on local and community news. "America's newspapers are narrowing their reach and their ambitions and becoming niche reads," the study said.

Fuel's surge a headache for home health providers

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—U.S. home health care workers, particularly those in rural areas, are suffering from financial headaches caused by the escalating cost of transportation, forcing some to borrow cash from co-workers in between paychecks and others to consider leaving the industry altogether. Providers of home care in New York, California and other states are doling out prepaid gas cards, rental cars and other perks in an effort to retain their workers, who care for roughly 12 million elderly and disabled patients nationwide and drive an estimated 5 billion miles a year, according to a recent study by the National Association for Home Care and Hospice. The industry is also contemplating abandoning uneconomical home visits in far-flung locations, and increasingly checking patients' blood pressures, heart rates, blood-sugar levels and other vital signs via remote monitoring systems, which many companies previously deemed too expensive.

Economists: Second half growth likely to be anemic

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Call it the big fizzle. The hoped-for second-half economic rebound is looking to be lethargic, with the country straining under high energy prices and fallout from the housing and credit debacles.

Forty-five percent of economists believe the economy won't log any growth or will clock in at a feeble 1 percent in the final six months of this year, according to a survey being released Monday by the National Association for Business Economics, which is known by the acronym, NABE. And, 10 percent think economic activity could actually contract during the period.

"Forecasters are approaching the second half with a lot of caution," Ken Simonson, point person on the survey and chief economist for the Associated General Contractors of America, said in an interview. "Most forecasters are suggesting the outlook will be sluggish, but not desperate. I'm afraid we're stuck on the ground floor of growth."

Thirty-two percent, meanwhile, think the economy growth's during the second half could be between 1 and 2 percent, which would mark a plodding performance. The more bullish are clearly in the minority camp: 11 percent think growth will come in between 2 and 3 percent. Only 1 percent expect growth to surpass 3 percent.

The economy's growth slowed sharply in the final quarter of 2007 and remained stuck in a rut in the first quarter of this year. Tax rebates, which have energized shoppers, should help lift the country out of the doldrums somewhat in the second quarter. The government releases its estimate of the second-quarter's economic performance at the end of this month. However, as the bracing force of the rebates fade, some analysts fear the economy could hit another rough patch near the end of this year.

Earlier this year, many thought that the first half of this year would be difficult and the second half would be stronger, lifted by the government's \$168 billion stimulus, including tax rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses. With the rebates kicking in earlier than some expected, the second half could turn sluggish.

Many have "abandoned the notion of seeing a rebound," Simonson said.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who briefed Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday, warned that over the rest of this year, the economy will grow "appreciably below its trend rate" mostly because of continued weakness in housing markets, high energy prices and tight credit conditions.

Normal activity would be along the lines of a 2.5 percent to 3 percent growth rate for the economy.

Not only is the country slogging through lethargic growth, but it is also confronted by rising prices that threaten to spread inflation.

In the NABE survey, 75 percent reported paying more for raw materials, such as fuel and steel. That's the highest percentage in record keeping going back to 1994. Those higher prices are squeezing profit margins and leading some firms—35 percent—to boost their prices, the survey found. That's up from the 29 percent who said their companies raised prices in the previous survey in April.

Consumer prices in June rose at the second-fastest pace in a quarter century, the government reported Wednesday. Wholesale prices also went up sharply during the month.

Meanwhile, most forecasters expect a continued slowdown in housing over the next six months, although they think it will be "mild" versus "substantial."

Grappling with fallout from housing and credit troubles and stung by high costs for energy and other raw materials, employers have cut jobs in each of the first six months of this year. Over the next six months, 51 percent said they expected to hold payrolls steady. Twenty-nine percent expected to boost them and 20 percent thought jobs would be reduced through layoffs or attrition.

Caught between slow growth and rising prices, the Fed is likely to leave interest rates alone when they meet next on Aug. 5. Boosting rates to fend off inflation would deal a setback to the economy and further hurt the housing market. The Fed can't afford to lower rates more to shore up economic activity because that would make inflation worse.

Sixty-two percent said the Fed's nearly yearlong string of rate reductions and other steps to prop up financial markets, had no effect on their business.

The survey, based on the responses of 101 NABE members, was conducted between June 19 and July 10.

Nation

Troop withdrawal concerns Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon's top military officer said Sunday a specific time frame for withdrawing U.S. combat troops from Iraq could jeopardize political and economic progress, leading to "dangerous consequences."

Adm. Mike Mullen said the agreement between President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to set a "general time horizon" for bringing more troops home from the war was a sign of "healthy negotiations for a burgeoning democracy."

"I think the strategic goals of having time horizons are ones that we all seek because eventually we would like to see U.S. forces draw down and eventually all come home," the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman said. "This right now doesn't speak to either time lines or timetables, based on my understanding of where we are."

The best way to determine troops levels, he said, is to assess the conditions on the ground

and to consult with American commanders - the mission Bush has given him.

"Should that mission change, and we get a new president, and should those conditions be conditions that get generated or required in order to advise a future president, I would do so accordingly," Mullen said. "Based on my time in and out of Iraq in recent months, I think the conditions-based assessments are the way to go and they're very solid. We're making progress and we can move forward accordingly based on those conditions."

Al-Maliki was quoted by a German magazine over the weekend as saying U.S. troops should leave "as soon as possible" and he called Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's suggestion of 16 months "the right timeframe for a withdrawal." Later, his chief spokesman said in a statement that the prime minister's comments were "not conveyed accurately."



Mullen

Obama spends less in June, saves resources

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama cut back on his spending in June after securing the Democratic presidential nomination, building up his cash on hand as Republican rival John McCain outspent him with a heavy dose of television advertising.

Unlike McCain, who spent more than he raised in June, Obama accumulated cash during the month, holding back on a ramped-up television campaign until July. Obama is now matching McCain's and the Republican Party's spending on advertising.

Obama reported raising \$52 million in June, more than twice the nearly \$21.5 million raised

by McCain during the month. Obama had \$72 million cash on hand to McCain's \$27 million, according to their reports with the Federal Election Commission.

Obama filed his financial document Sunday; McCain on Friday.

Obama reported \$25.6 million in spending in June, his lowest monthly operating costs of the year. McCain disbursed \$27 million in the month, including \$1.2 million to a special accounting fund for the fall campaign.

Obama's contributions included \$1.4 million raised through a joint victory fund set up with the Democratic National Committee. He reported a debt of \$891,000.



Obama

Alabama man turns 112, still spends days drawing

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Bent over or sitting at a table, gripping a ballpoint pen, marker or crayon, Frank Calloway spends his days turning visions from his youth into lively murals - and at 112 years old, the images of his childhood are a window to another time.

Drawn on sheets of butcher paper and sometimes stretching to more than 30 feet long, the works mostly show rural agricultural scenes, with buildings, trains and vehicles straight out of the early 20th century. And his colorful creations are gaining more attention in the art world.

The works by a man who has lived about half his life in state mental health centers will be part of an exhibit this fall at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. His caretakers have suspended sales of his artwork until after the show after finding out some of his drawings could sell for thousands of dollars.

"They are unique in that they are of a rural, agrarian South, and they speak to a time gone by," said Sara Anne Gibson, executive director of the Kentucky Museum in Northport, Ala., which hosted a monthlong exhibition of Calloway's works two years ago.



NATURE SHOW

People watch from a viewing area as an explosion takes place at the base of the plume where molten lava is pumping into the ocean on the Island of Hawaii Monday. Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, has been erupting since Jan. 3, 1983. Surface flows emerge near the ocean on the southeast side of the Big Island, where people can see the lava from a viewing area a few hundred feet away.

AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Plane emergency landing interrupts Ohio air show

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—A Northwest Airlines plane made an emergency landing Sunday at Dayton International Airport, interrupting the city's air show. The Boeing 757 was en route from Tampa, Fla., to Detroit when a computer for one of its engines failed, airline spokeswoman Leslie Parker said in an e-mail. The crew shut down the engine and landed as a precaution, she said. Nobody was injured. Six crew members and 182 passengers were on board. The Dayton Air Show at the airport was halted for about 25 minutes while the plane landed. Spectators applauded the landing, and the air show's announcer said over a loudspeaker, "All right, a piece of cake." Buses carrying the passengers left for Detroit.

Massachusetts patient tested for mad cow disease

BOSTON (AP)—Public health officials in Massachusetts are investigating whether a patient in a Cape Cod hospital has the human form of mad cow disease. Dr. Alfred DeMaria, the state's director of communicable disease control, confirmed Sunday to The Associated Press that tests are being done to see if the patient has Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and whether it's the variant attributed to mad cow. There have only been three cases of the hu-

man form of mad cow disease reported in the United States in the last several years, and officials say it's extremely unlikely the patient in Cape Cod Hospital has the disease. Mad cow disease—medically known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE—causes spongy holes in the brain.

Firefighters keep wary eye on Calif. thunderstorms

JUNCTION CITY, Calif. (AP)—Scattered showers forecast for California's northern mountains Sunday are unlikely to extinguish wildfires that still threaten homes and could bring more lightning to the charred region, fire officials said. The weather system is not expected to bring enough rain to have any effect on several huge blazes that have burned for nearly a month, said Pete Munoa, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. A bigger concern is thunderstorms predicted to accompany the system.

Woman in W.Pa. baby mystery charged with homicide

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A woman suspected of cutting open a pregnant woman's uterus and stealing the baby has been charged with homicide, unlawful restraint and kidnapping, police said Sunday. Andrea Curry-Demus, 38, of Wilkesburg, is charged in the

death of Kia Johnson, 18, of McKeesport. Curry-Demus is accused of taking the baby boy to a Pittsburgh hospital and claiming it was her own. Johnson's body was found Friday in Curry-Demus's apartment. The body was positively identified through dental records, Allegheny County Medical Examiner Karl Williams said Sunday. Police said that video surveillance at the Allegheny County Jail from Tuesday afternoon shows Curry-Demus talking with Johnson for several minutes. The women were at the jail visiting different inmates, police said.

Catholic group says it ordained 3 women priests

BOSTON (AP)—An activist group hoping to pressure the Roman Catholic church into dropping its long-standing prohibition barring women from the priesthood says it ordained three women on Sunday. Church officials did not recognize the ordination, and the Vatican has previously warned that women taking part in ordination ceremonies will be excommunicated. The group known as Roman Catholic Womenpriests held the ceremony at the Church of the Covenant, a Protestant Church in Boston. The group said the three women—Gloria Carpeneto of Baltimore, Judy Lee of Fort Myers, Fla., and Gabriella Velardi Ward of New York City—are responding to a heartfelt call to serve the church as priests.

Tropical Storm Cristobal heads toward ocean

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Tropical Storm Cristobal headed for the open Atlantic late Sunday as forecasters discontinued tropical storm warnings along the Carolinas.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Dolly drenched Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and was expected to reach the Gulf of Mexico Monday afternoon.

At 11 p.m. EDT Sunday, the National Hurricane Center said Cristobal's center had moved to 30 miles east of Cape Hatteras with maximum sustained winds near 50 mph. The storm was headed northeast at 9 mph.

The advisory predicted little change in strength over the next day or two.

Cristobal's strongest winds were east of the center, out at sea, National Weather Service meteorologist Rich Bandy said.

Bandy said some rain had fallen over the smoldering wildfire that has burned 64 square miles in Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge since it was started by lightning June 1.

The Weather Service said Cristobal was expected to produce up to an inch of rain along the North Carolina coast during the next 24 hours.

The prospect of seeing Cristobal head out to sea pleased a fishing captain at Ocracoke, an island south of Cape Hatteras. "Let's get it over with so we can go fishing," said Capt. David Nagel, who has operated the "Drum Stick" charter boat for 31 years. "Nobody's out. Everybody's tied up."

Asia

Armed men raid RP mine, burn rig

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Armed men raided a foreign-controlled copper-and-gold mine in the southern Philippines, burning a drill rig, the owners said Monday.

Australia-listed copper developer Indophil Resources NL, which owns roughly a third of

the Tampakan venture, said in a statement it came under attack Sunday, but that no one was injured. It contains the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in Southeast Asia, it said.

The gunmen burned a drill rig and escaped. Police were investigating, Indophil said.

Gavan Collery, Indophil's corporate affairs manager in Melbourne, Australia, said gunmen entered an area designated for waste rock about 9 miles (15 kilometers) from the deposits.

"We wouldn't expect it to be a great setback," he said.

The same mine, which

is slated to produce around 200,000 to 250,000 tons of copper from 2013, was attacked on Jan. 1 by communist rebels, who burned two buildings and seized weapons from company security guards.

The New People's Army has stepped up its 40-year-old Mao-

ist insurgency since quitting peace talks with the Philippine government four years ago.

They usually target military and police outposts to seize badly needed weapons and extort money from business establishments.

The U.S. and European gov-

ernments consider them terrorists and have moved to cut off their funding.

The Tampakan project is owned 62.5 percent by Anglo-Swiss miner Xstrata PLC and 34.23 percent by Indophil, with Philippine partners holding the balance.



SUMMER ATTRACTION

Young visitors enjoy view of a manta in the Okinawan sea on display on a 200-inch screen in Sony Building in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district Monday, July 21, 2008. It was part of summer attraction in the landmark building.

Myanmar ratifies ASEAN charter

SINGAPORE (AP)—Myanmar has ratified a proposed international charter that includes controversial human rights provisions, officials said Monday, a day after regional powers slammed the nation's ruling junta for extending opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's detention.

Myanmar's ratification of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations charter is to be formalized at a ceremony later Monday.

But question marks remain about whether Myanmar's junta, which has jailed hundreds of political dissidents, including Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi, is willing to adhere to the principles of human rights and respect for rule of law enshrined in the charter.

It was also unclear whether the proposed ASEAN human

rights body, the details of which have yet to be hammered out, will have any substantive enforcement or monitoring power.

The charter, expected to come into force by next year, aims to strengthen the 10-member group of Asian nations, giving it power to sue and be sued, and establishing enforceable financial, trade and environmental rules.

The most controversial part of the charter is a proposed human rights body.

"It's high time that we concretize the human rights of the people of ASEAN," said Rosario Manalo, the Philippine representative to the panel.

Still, it is clear that the body will not have the power to sanction countries that violate the rights of its citizens.

China withdraws troops from earthquake zone

BEIJING (AP)—China began withdrawing the first batch of 40,000 troops Monday from three provinces hit by the massive May 12 earthquake as authorities shifted focus from rescue to reconstruction work.

The order, signed by President Hu Jintao who also heads up the Central Military Commission, went into effect Monday, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

China had mobilized about 130,000 troops and armed police to help with relief and reconstruction in the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi following the 7.9-magnitude earthquake.

The quake had destroyed a massive swath of Sichuan as

well as the other two neighboring provinces, leaving 70,000 dead and another 18,000 missing. An estimated 5 million people were left homeless.

The first group of soldiers, about 500 paratroopers, left the Sichuan capital of Chengdu by train at 9:45 am, Xinhua said.

The remaining troops will continue their work in repairing roads, clearing up and epidemic prevention, Xinhua quoted Chen Bingde, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army as saying.

As of July 18, the troops and armed forces had repaired more than 9,100 miles of roads, installed 220,000 shelters and relocated more than 1.4 million people, Xinhua said.

Beijing traffic cut to clear air for Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Morning haze hung over Beijing on Monday, the first workday for restrictions on car use under a bold plan to clear the Olympic city of its notorious smog-choked skies.

Under a two-month plan that started Sunday, half of the capital's 3.3 million cars will be removed from city streets on alternate days, depending on whether the license plate ends in an odd or even numbers.

It could be several days before the impact of the clean-up plan—

which includes cutbacks on construction and factory closures—can be seen, whether that means less traffic on the roads or cleaner skies over the city.

Also, while the government has said it hopes to reduce vehicle emissions, one of Beijing's chief sources of pollution, it is unclear how the effectiveness of the plan will be gauged. The government has not made public a specific target for emissions levels or said how it will measure air quality.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tourist drowns while swimming in RP waterfall

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say a British tourist has drowned after being swept away by a strong current at a popular waterfall west of Manila. Senior Superintendent Manuel Gaerlan says 56-year-old Richard Kidd, from Gateshead in England, drowned Saturday while swimming alone in Bataan's Dunsulan Falls. The provincial police chief said Monday that the 56-year-old went to the tourist spot with his British girlfriend and her father, who are residents of Bataan. Police investigator Kristoffer Mendoza says Kidd was swept away as he swam below the water cascade, which was swollen from rains.

Obama meets Afghan President Hamid Karzai

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama pledged steadfast aid to Afghanistan in talks Sunday with its Western-backed leader and vowed to pursue the war on terror "with vigor" if elected, an Afghan official said. On the second day of an international tour designed to burnish his foreign policy

credentials, Illinois Sen. Obama and a pair of colleagues held two hours of talks with President Hamid Karzai at his palace in the capital. Obama made no public comment after the meeting, but said in a written statement that his main purpose was to see U.S. troops, thank them for their "extraordinary service" and let them know the United States is proud of them.

India lawmakers gather to debate confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian lawmakers gathered Monday to debate a vote of confidence in the government that will likely determine the fate of a landmark civilian nuclear deal with the United States. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was forced to call the vote after his communist political allies withdrew their support for the Congress-led coalition in protest of the nuclear deal, which they fear will draw New Delhi closer to Washington. The debate, which begins in Parliament on Monday, caps a week of intense politicking by the government and the opposition parties to secure a majority in the vote, including poaching lawmakers from other parties with promises of power and even

reports of vote buying. The vote is expected late Tuesday.

6 civilians killed in Afghan attack on fuel truck

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A provincial official says an insurgent attack on a fuel truck has killed six civilians in eastern Afghanistan. The official, Abdul Wakil Atak, says the truck was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by insurgents in Laghman province on Sunday. Atak is a spokesman for the provincial governor. Atak said Monday that two people were killed inside the truck and that four others died in the blast. Insurgents regularly attack supply convoys for the U.S.-led coalition and NATO troops in Afghanistan. Hundreds of civilians have been killed in insurgency-related violence this year.

Bus explosions in southwest China kill 2

BEIJING (AP)—Explosions on two public buses killed two people and wounded 14 others Monday in China's southwestern Yunnan province, police said. The first explosion occurred at 7:05 a.m. on public bus 54 in downtown Kunming city and the

second at 8:10 a.m. at a nearby intersection, the Yunnan Public Security Bureau said in a notice on its Web site. The report said initial investigations determined the explosions were not accidents. The official Xinhua News Agency said a destroyed bus was seen in front of a bus stop. Police closed roads and set up checkpoints to prevent any suspects from escaping, the bureau said.

Nepal assembly votes to elect president

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's governing assembly began voting Monday to elect the new republic's first president since it abolished the centuries-old monarchy in May. Constituent Assembly members were choosing between two candidates—Ram Baran Yadav of the Nepali Congress party and independent politician Ramraja Singh—in Monday's election. The winning candidate must secure at least half of the 594 votes in the assembly. Yadav could be the strongest candidate, with the backing of his party, the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) and Madhesi People's Rights Forum—the second, third and fourth largest parties. He secured the most votes in initial voting on Saturday.

World

Obama in Iraq to meet US commanders

BAGHDAD (AP)—A U.S. Embassy official said Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama arrived in Iraq on Monday where he will meet with commanders and troops in a war he has long opposed.

Obama was expected to meet Gen. David Petraeus as well as Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki while in the country, although aides provided few details, citing security concerns.

Obama arrived as part of a congressional delegation that also included Sens. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., following stops in Kuwait and Afghanistan. The delegation met Sunday in Kuwait City with Kuwait's emir, Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and other senior officials, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

All three are longtime critics of the U.S. involvement in the war in Iraq. Obama has called for withdrawing American troops at the rate of one or two brigades per month, and an end to combat operations within 16 months. He has said he favors leaving a residual force in the

country to provide security for U.S. personnel, train Iraqis and counter attacks by al-Qaida.

The delegation arrived amid controversy over al-Maliki's published comments in a German magazine that appeared to endorse Obama's 16-month timetable. The Iraqi leader's aides have since said his remarks were misunderstood, and he is not taking sides in the U.S. election.

Obama's trip occurred less than four months before the presidential election. It is Obama's second trip to Iraq, but conditions are quite different from when he visited in January 2006. Obama's first tour was treated as a footnote, while the country was caught in a growing Sunni insurgency and was moving toward a flood of sectarian violence. But the bloodshed has declined significantly since Bush sent thousands more troops last year to help quell the rising violence.

McCain has been critical of Obama's position on Iraq, saying the decision to pull out should be determined by progress, not a timetable.

He supports the war, and has



This picture released by U.S. Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan shows Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, left, greeting Sgt. Anthony R. Lewis of Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan during a visit to Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, July 20, 2008.

been critical of some aspects of its handling. But he was a vocal supporter of the decision

to send in more troops.

McCain's foreign policy adviser, Randy Scheunemann,

said Obama "is stubbornly adhering to an unconditional withdrawal that places politics

above the advice of our military commanders, the success of our troops, and the security of the American people."

"Barack Obama is wrong to advocate withdrawal at any cost just as he was wrong to oppose the surge that has put victory within reach," Scheunemann said in a statement.

U.S. commanders have begun withdrawing some of those additional troops and Obama argues they should be sent to Afghanistan, which he says is the "central front" in the fight against terrorism, to reinforce efforts there against a resurgent Taliban and to control spiraling violence.

McCain also supports sending troop reinforcements to Afghanistan.

"There's starting to be a growing consensus that it's time for us to withdraw some of our combat troops out of Iraq, deploy them here in Afghanistan, and I think we have to seize that opportunity. Now is the time for us to do it," Obama said in a CBS News interview broadcast Sunday after a two-hour meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Zimbabweans use blogs, text messages for info

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—The photographs of the tortured body of an opposition official are blurry but chilling.

Posted on the "This is Zimbabwe" blog, they show charred, lacerated limbs and blank eyes staring out from the face of the official, Gift Mutsvungunu, frozen in a death grimace. A note accompanying the pictures says the picture quality is bad because the photographer was shaking with fear.

Increasingly, Zimbabweans are going online and using cell phone text messages to share stories of life and death in a country where independent traditional media have been all but silenced, and from which reporters from most international media have been barred.

"Any organization or NGO working in the area of promotion of free expression is at risk," Bev Clark, one of the founders of the Kubatana blog-

ging forum, said via e-mail. "Zimbabwe is encased fear."

Harare-based Kubatana is a network of nonprofit organizations that runs a blogging forum. The forum relies on 13 bloggers in Zimbabwe, who e-mail submissions to an administrator who posts them to the site. The network also reaches beyond the Web by sending text messages to 3,800 subscribers.

Zimbabwe's bloggers are mainly opposition activists

whose themes range from HIV/AIDS to the country's economic meltdown to President Robert Mugabe's thuggery. The underground networks can be forums for unsubstantiated rumor, but they also provide valuable independent information and can even make news.

In late June, the "This is Zimbabwe" blog started a letter-writing campaign against a German firm that was supplying paper for the sinking Zimbabwean dollar.



Pope Benedict XVI, right, waves as he walks in with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for his departure from Australia at Sydney Airport Monday, July 21, 2008. Benedict was in Australia for World Youth Day festivities.

Pope meets with clergy abuse victims in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI met privately on Monday with Australians who were sexually abused as children by priests, ending a pilgrimage to the country with a gesture of contrition and concern over a scandal that has rocked the Roman Catholic church.

The pontiff held prayers and spoke with four representatives of abuse victims—two men and two women—in the last hours of his 9-day visit to Australia for the church's global youth festival.

The victims did not speak publicly after the meeting. Sup-

port groups for other victims dismissed the gesture as a public relations stunt.

The abuse scandal was a sour undertone to the trip for World Youth Day, which is supposed to be a celebration of faith that inspires a new generation.

On Saturday, Benedict delivered a forthright apology for the scandal, saying he was "deeply sorry" for the victims' suffering. But victims said this was not enough, and demanded that Benedict do more to provide financial compensation and psychological help for them.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi panel proposes delay in key election

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's election authority proposed Sunday to delay important provincial balloting in an apparent sign of frustration over a political impasse that has stalled preparations for voting planned for this fall. The provincial election plan—strongly backed by Washington—would shift more political powers to regions and is viewed by Sunni Arabs as path to gain more influence over decisions by the Shiite-led government. U.S. officials see the voting as another key step in national reconciliation. But any prolonged setbacks could slow momentum for giving Sunnis a greater voice in political and security affairs - considered essential to stabilize the country and maintain pressure on al-Qaida in Iraq and other militant factions.

Rice says Iran not serious at weekend nuke talks

SHANNON, Ireland (AP)—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says Iran was not serious in weekend talks over its disputed nuclear program and will face new sanctions unless it changes its behavior soon. Rice says Iran gave envoys from the U.S. and five other world powers the run-around at Saturday's talks in Switzerland and time is running out for it to accept a package of incentives in exchange for halting suspect activity. Iran now has two weeks to respond. The United States broke with past policy to send a senior U.S. diplomat to the meeting and Rice says his appearance gave new energy to the effort to get Iran to stop enriching uranium, which can be used as fuel in a nuclear bomb. Iran is refusing and claims its program is for power generation.

Williams: Anglicans in 'severe' crisis

CANTERBURY, England (AP)—The head of the Anglican Communion said Sunday that the global fellowship faces "one of the most severe challenges" in its history, and he urged bishops at their once-a-decade Lambeth Conference to do the hard work of finding solutions. Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said the Anglican family's most immediate need is for "transformed relationships" so they don't break apart over homosexuality and the Bible. "We all know that we stand in the middle of one of the most severe challenges to have faced the Anglican family in its history," he said in an address to the 650 bishops at the assembly. But he said the world fellowship has survived other crises in its centuries-long history, and he has faith that church leaders can overcome the most recent troubles.

Man beats child's head on Rome monument

ROME (AP)—A man beat his 4-year-old daughter's head against the stone base of a Rome monument in front of tourists and a police officer, leaving the child in a coma, police said Sunday. Carabinieri Lt. Col. Antonello Casarsa said the man, identified as Frenchman Julien Monnet, 37, repeatedly struck the head of his daughter, Luna, against the stone of the Altar of the Nation—a towering monument to Italy's war victims in Rome's Piazza Venezia—after a traffic officer asked to see some identification. Bambino Gesù pediatric hospital said the child was comatose with severe head injuries when she was admitted shortly before midnight. "Her condition is stable but very critical," Daniela Perrotta, from the hospital's anesthesiology department, told reporters outside the hospital.

Overdrive

A thrilling dance (that goes nowhere)

By **WARREN BROWN**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The legend is real. The 2009 Nissan GT-R, the car known to many as the Nissan Skyline in Japan, can run as fast as the fastest Porsche. It handles as well as the most agile Lamborghini. It does all of those things at a relative fraction of the cost of its putative betters. It is a performance car supreme.

And it is frustration of the most excruciating sort.

The only thing that came close to my time in the GT-R Premium edition was my last date with Gloria A.

We were Catholic high school

students in New Orleans. To say I had a thing for Gloria is to put it mildly. In moments of grand self-delusion, I thought she had the same feelings for me.

We got together at a school dance. It was a good date — a wonderful evening that I thought would get even better.

Gloria suggested we step outside, to talk about “something important.” I was aching with anticipation, primed to say “yes” to her unasked question. And then she spoke: “I’m going to the convent.”

Everything after that was a blur. I think I took her home. I’m not sure. All I remember is a tremendous feeling of

loss, of unfulfilled potential. I drowned in a sea of frustration and disappointment.

That feeling came back to me sitting in the Nissan GT-R. There was so much potential — 480 horsepower available for the asking, 430 foot-pounds of torque and an all-wheel-drive system with rear-wheel-drive bias, the way all-wheel-drive should be in a premium sports car.

Everything about the GT-R spoke to power and speed. What an abject waste! Where could I exploit that power? Where could I enjoy the thrill of that speed?

The GT-R is a capable performer on the racetrack, where many of my peers in automotive journalism experienced its considerable prowess. But I had the car for only a few days — in the middle of a workweek at that. There was no time to go to a track. How often could a person rooted in the real world go to a track anyway?

Still, I found a few abandoned



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Nissan GT-R has an ugly exterior, but the interior is attractive, high-tech, a pleasant mixture of leather and electronic gadgetry. Still, it's a car best enjoyed at the racetrack.

strips and had a bit of fun. What a splendid driving machine! But the experience reminded me of dancing with Gloria before being told she was going to the convent. It was as good as it gets ... with so much good left un-gotten.

And there was this: Courtroom 1-D in the suburban Fairfax (Va.) General District Court, where I accompanied a colleague who had received a speeding ticket. Something about sitting in traffic court takes the joy out of driving a car such as the Nissan GT-R. The

judicial system renders the car a utilitarian thing, turns its hyperbolic road performance into little more than a cipher.

It occurred to me, there in Courtroom 1-D, that the judge just doesn't care. The police handing out the speeding tickets don't care. The commonwealth attorney prosecuting traffic violations doesn't care.

The Nissan GT-R can move from 0 to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds. It can outpace the super-fast Porsche 911/Type 997. It can outrun the Corvette Z06. But go over the limit on public

roads in Fairfax County and District Judge Penney Azcarate will throw the book at you.

“I don't care what car you are driving,” she told an errant motorist in a recent court hearing. “Slow down!”

There was something about the way she said that, the frightening, final authority of it, that robbed me of affection for cars such as the Nissan GT-R. They are nice to play with on racetracks. But there's a bit of the last dance about them—for most of us, little chance of ever developing a meaningful relationship.

NUTS AND BOLTS

By **WARREN BROWN**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

The Nissan GT-R is a situation piece. If you are situated well with cash and time, it is a wonderful toy. If you lack one of those things, the car makes no sense. It is best enjoyed at the track.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

Superior in all three categories. It is the fastest car most of us will ever have a chance to drive. It's an easily addictive ride.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The transmission is in the rear, which is unusual for an all-wheel-drive car. Although all-wheel-drive, the power bias is with the rear wheels. Up to 50 percent of that power can be shifted to front wheels via a center differential. It's a coupe with 2+2 seating.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Exterior styling is ugly. But the interior is attractive, high-tech, a pleasant mixture of leather and electronic gadgetry.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The GT-R comes with a hand-built, twin-turbocharged, 3.8-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops (officially) 480 horsepower at 6,400 revolutions per minute and 430 foot-pounds of torque at 3,200 revolutions per minute. The engine is mated to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES

There are comfortable seats for driver and front passenger. The two rear seats offer inadequate space for most adults. Luggage space is 9 cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 19.5 gallons of recommended premium unleaded gasoline. It makes sense, in this case, to follow the factory's fuel recommendation.

MILEAGE

Mileage is low — an average 15 miles per gallon in city driving and barely 20 on the highway. But the people who are buying this car are not looking for fuel economy.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes with antilock assistance; electronic brake force distribution; electronic stability and traction control, rigid body construction.

PRICE

The base priced on the 2009 Nissan GT-R Premium (as opposed to the available GT-R Base) is \$71,900. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$67,672. Price as tested is \$72,900, including a \$1,000 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$68,672. This is a high-demand, limited edition car. Expect to pay a substantial premium even in the currently troubled economic environment. List prices are sourced from Nissan and Edmunds.com.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

This is the car as toy. Those who have the money and time to play with it will enjoy. For the rest of us...stay tuned.

Going small: A Smart driving experience

By **KEN THOMAS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—I had to wonder: Do Americans really want to go this small?

This is the Smart fortwo micro car, which, at 1,800 pounds, would be no match for a big truck. Or so my friends said.

The fortwo received the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's top rating in front- and side-impact testing, and it's equipped with standard side air bags, anti-rollover technology and a reinforced steel cage structure, but this is not a car built for a quick getaway. And the 70-horsepower, 1-liter, three-cylinder engine felt somewhat lacking but most car shoppers want to use the Smart's size to their advantage.

The vehicle is so tiny—its length of 8 feet, 10 inches is



AP

In this Dec. 4, 2007 file photo, Daimler AG's Smart fortwo micro car is driven on a street in Washington.

about three feet shorter than a Mini Cooper—that it could easily fit tight parking spots. I could even turn into the curb at a right angle and not worry about the back sticking out into the street.

It gets good gas mileage, about 33 miles per gallon in

the city and 41 mpg on the highway. While it lags behind hybrids such as the Toyota Prius and the Honda Civic hybrid, it gets better gas mileage than larger compact competitors like the Toyota Yaris and the Honda Fit, but not by much.

I found the transmission could be sluggish and halting at times, sometimes jerking the car forward as it shifted between gears. It occasionally struggled to muster up the strength to climb hills, and even with its suspension, I could feel practically every bump on the road.

The Smart does have a surprising amount of interior space. I'm about 6 feet tall and had plenty of head and legroom. It sits higher on the road than most passenger cars and the sunroof gave me the feeling of a larger interior.

Smart has sold 11,399 vehicles in the U.S. through June and helped boost Daimler's U.S. sales last month. The fortwo is within the reach of most car shoppers. A basic version will cost more than \$12,000. A convertible costs more than \$17,000.

CRUISIN'

Win a muscle car!

By **GREG ZYLA**
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Every now and then, a promotion comes across my desk that is way too good to put in the “circular file.” So, have you ever dreamed of owning an original, all-American muscle car? Now's your chance, thanks to the folks at Actron and Sunpro and their “Muscle Car Sweepstakes.”

With no purchase necessary, one lucky winner will drive away in a beautifully

restored 1969 Dodge Coronet R/T armed with a 440 Magnum V-8—a 375-horsepower MOPAR legend! I owned a '67 GTX 440-375 back in 1968, so I know personally this car will be a great one to drive.

“Sunpro gauges are iconic of the '60s and '70s muscle car era,” explained Joe Young, Sun Pro's product manager. “If you were a racer or into cars at all, chances are there was a Sun Super Tach perched on your dashboard.” (Note: Yep, Joe is correct).

The Actron and Sunpro “Muscle Car Sweepstakes” ends Nov. 30. To be eligible, you must complete an official entry form available at retail locations where Actron and Sunpro products are sold, at select shows and events, or online at www.musclecarsweepstakes.com. Retail locations include Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone, Pep Boys and Sears.

For official rules, as well as details of the 1969 Dodge Coronet R/T grand prize, visit www.musclecarsweepstakes.com. Readers can visit Sunpro at www.sunpro.com online to

check out its line of tachs and gauges, and Actron's diagnostic equipment at www.actron.com.

Someone is going to win this classic '69 R/T 440, and it could one of my readers, which would truly make my day!

These companies make good products that are affordable, and they are thanking the people who love cars. That's us, so enter today.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

Hundreds attend Rotary's Las Vegas Night

By **JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ**
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night at Saipan World Resort on Saturday night had excellent ticket sales and attendance.

"I think it was a successful night. We had a jam-packed ballroom...probably over 300 came to the event," said Rotary Club president Ben Babauta. "I want to thank to all those who came and participated; the sponsors, and the rest that came to make it a successful Las Vegas Night for Saipan Rotary Club."

The event offered games of chance such as Blackjack, Texas Hold 'Em poker, Roulette, Craps and kina.

Rotary has yet to determine the event's total earnings.

This year's Las Vegas Night grand prize winner was Juliet Reyes. She will have a choice of a brand new car or \$10,000 cash. She was not present during the

announcement of the winners.

The holder of ticket No. 2003 won the first prize of \$3,000.

Rigador C. Reyes won the second prize worth \$2,000, while the third prize of \$1,000 went to Rosanna Ortiz.

The winners of the fourth and fifth prizes, ticket No. 3702, and Vicente Sablan, each received cash prizes of \$500.

For more information, call Rotary Club treasurer Nel Matanguihan at 234-0609 ext. 102.

Sponsors for the door prizes included Hard Rock Café, AA Enterprises, Gold's Gym, Capricciosa, Country House Restaurant, CTSI, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Pacific Sunrise Corp., PTI, Saipan Bowling Center, Saipan World Resort, National Office Supply, Tasi Tours, Tony Roma's, DFS, First Hawaiian Bank, MEGA Byte, Moby Dick Restaurant, Shell Marianas, Tournament of Champions and Truong's.



Rotary Club of Saipan president Ben Babauta facilitates the Bingo game.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Visitors place their bets on the roulette game.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rotarian Ed Salas deals cards on the table during the annual event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



The tickets are seen inside the raffle box while hundreds of hopefuls wait for the grand raffle drawing.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rotarians Jim Arenovski and Ning Reyes assist a card game.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Players try their hand—and luck—at Black Jack, craps and Texas Hold 'Em poker.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Players gather around the table to play a card game.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Game show 'Deal' goes daily with big money

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Howie Mandel, the models, the banker and the briefcases all will be in place when the syndicated version of "Deal or No Deal" premieres in September - along with cash for viewers as well as contestants.

Players on the new show won't have a shot at the top \$1 million payoff that's possible on NBC's series, but the half-hour show airing each weekday will offer a still-hefty \$500,000, the show's producer told The Associated Press Monday.

The TV audience will have their own chance to win as well as watch with a \$10,000 weekly prize up for grabs via a companion Web site or a call-in number, series producer Endemol USA said.

Mandel will continue to host the hourlong NBC show, which is entering its fourth season next month and has proven a hit.



In this undated publicity photo released by NBC Universal, host Howie Mandel talks with a contestant on "Deal or No Deal," NBC's hit contest show.

Sing us one last song at Shea, Piano Man

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Joel bade a stirring farewell to Shea Stadium on Friday during an electrifying, sold-out final show at the same ballpark where the Beatles famously ushered in a new era in rock 'n' roll four decades ago.

He was joined by an all-star lineup of friends including Paul McCartney, who told Joel, "Came here a long time ago. We had a blast that night and we're having another one tonight."

"Good evening, Shea Stadium. Is this cool or what?" Joel told the crowd at the New York Mets' home field, which is to be razed after the baseball season to make way for a new stadium across the street.

"They're gonna be tearing this place down, but I wanna thank you ... for letting me do the best job in the world," he said.

The show paid homage to Shea's baseball glories, with Mets highlights playing on jumbo screens during "Zanzibar." But the concert also was a mark of the stadium's place in music history.

The show came 43 years after the Beatles' legendary show at Shea - the first concert at the ballpark. The concert came at the height of Beatlemania and demonstrated the sheer power of rock 'n' roll and the Beatles: 55,000 screaming fans at a U.S. ballpark was virtually unheard-of at the time, and the show gave the Fab Four even more cachet among the Beatle-crazed American public.

Joel has always strongly embraced his New York and Long Island roots, and that makes for memory-making concerts every time he plays in the city. Throngs of fans know his music so well

they can pretty much take over any chorus they like.

And as if the "Piano Man" playing the last concert at Shea wasn't thrilling enough, high-wattage guests turned up the excitement level.

Tony Bennett sang "New York State of Mind" with Joel on Friday, Aerosmith's Steven Tyler performed "Walk This Way," and Roger Daltrey of the Who did "My Generation. At the end of "My Generation," Joel smashed a guitar against the stage, breaking it in two.

McCartney came on at the end. He sang "I Saw Her Standing There" while on guitar and "Let It Be" on piano - the last song of the night. Joel sat on top of piano and sang backup.

Garth Brooks appeared on stage earlier wearing a Mets

jersey, and in the audience, one of Joel's famous fans - ex-wife Christie Brinkley - sang along, word for word, to the chorus of "She's Always a Woman."

During the first installment of Joel's "Last Play at Shea" on Wednesday, John Mellencamp came on stage to perform his hit "Pink Houses," and Don Henley underscored the baseball theme with his standard "Boys of Summer."

The Beatles and baseball shared the spotlight at the concerts. Joel played three Beatles songs ("A Hard Day's Night," "Please, Please Me" and "She Loves You") during Wednesday's set, and introduced his signature "Piano Man" with "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." He also played the national anthem to start the show.

Zach Braff to leave 'Scrubs' after this season

By MARIA ELENA FERNANDEZ
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—J.D. is finally growing up and moving on with his life on "Scrubs." And that's not because the single-camera comedy has a new home on ABC.

Zach Braff, who has portrayed the quirky, sentimental doctor for seven years, said Wednesday that he would be leaving the show at the end of the new season, which begins on ABC in January. Until now it has been seen on NBC.

"J.D. will be leaving the hospital," creator Bill Lawrence told reporters at The Television Critics Association Press Tour. "And without giving away too much, the show is about whether, when you leave, you can hold on to your relationships or not."

Braff said he hopes to return as a guest star, if "Scrubs" continues beyond its eighth season, a possibility that ABC Entertainment President Steve McPherson has said he is open to.



Zach Braff, a cast member in the ABC series "Scrubs," participates in a panel discussion on the show during the Television Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

"Thanks to Steve, this has been a bonus amazing year, but my sense is that this is my last year," Braff said. "I hope to be able to visit and direct some episodes and do craft services, if they need the help."

But can Turk (played by Donald Faison) possibly go on without J.D.?

"It's a real conundrum for me," Lawrence said. "Whether the show goes on or not (without Braff) is really tough. I don't just mean making cash, because I'm fine. Don't worry about me. We've got a family there and a crew of people and a landscape that's not friendly now to TV production. And they love it there."

"I think if Zach goes, Donald's gotta go," interjected Neil Flynn, whose Janitor character gets married this season in the Bahamas, even though viewers will still not know his real moniker.

"When you hear the Janitor's name," Lawrence said, "the show is over."

"Deal or No Deal" was NBC's most-watched entertainment program of the 2007-08 TV season, averaging more than 11 million viewers per broadcast.

"My wife could not be more thrilled to have me out of the house and at work Monday through Friday," Mandel joked in a statement released by Endemol.

Based on a series that debuted in Holland in 2002 and became an international success, "Deal or No Deal" is about luck and playing the odds.

Contestants are faced with briefcases, each case with a hid-

den value ranging from a penny to the top prize. There are 22 cases on the syndicated show, versus 26 on the network version, and the new show's models won't have custody of the cases.

As the game progresses and briefcases cases are eliminated, a contestant weighs the chance of snaring a big prize against lesser but still tempting offers made by the show's "bank," represented by an anonymous, silhouetted figure.

The show, from NBC Universal Domestic Television Distribution and Endemol USA, debuts Sept. 8.

Paris concert presses for Colombia hostage release

PARIS (AP)—Former hostage Ingrid Betancourt took the stage and shook her hips to a Colombian superstar's guitar riffs, leading the crowd in chants of "Freedom for all!" at a concert Sunday dedicated to captives held by Colombia's FARC rebel group.

Thousands of people turned out for the free concert at Paris' Place du Trocadero, which was awash in the red, yellow and blue colors of the Colombian flag.

Juanes kicked off the show, which coincided with Colombia's independence day, with an emotional rendition of the South American country's national anthem. Spanish singer Miguel Bose and other musicians took part in the concert.

Juanes was joined onstage by Betancourt, a French-Colombian politician who was freed earlier this month after more than six years of captivity at the hands of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

"A page has been turned," Juanes told The Associated Press, referring to Betancourt's rescue July 2 in a daring operation by the Colombian army. "But the book remains open and it's a heavy one."

Latin America's last major rebel army holds dozens of hostages in jungle jails, some for more than a decade. Colombia's government estimates the rebels have 700 hostages, but acknowledges that tally includes people kidnapped since 1996, many of whom have likely died.

For "all those who are waiting for the miracle of their release, we must continue to mobilize," said Betancourt, a former Colombian senator who was kidnapped while campaigning for the presidency in 2002. Her family's tireless campaigning helped make her a cause celebre in France, with President Nicolas Sarkozy making her liberation a foreign policy priority.

In addition to the concert in Paris, rallies were held across Colombia and in 40 cities around the world, including London, Miami and New York.

In Colombia, hundreds of thousands of people clad in white and chanting "No more kidnapping!" attended marches and concerts. Colombian musician Shakira performed in the jungle border city of Leticia after singing the national anthem at a military parade presided over by President Alvaro Uribe, with the presidents of Brazil and Peru attending.

"Today is a historic day. We unite, unite our voices in a single shout: Liberty!" Shakira said.

Uribe said 120,000 musicians were taking the stage in cities and villages across Colombia.

During the Paris event, Betancourt also spoke out for other prisoners held throughout the world, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest in her native Myanmar, and Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier who was captured by Hamas-allied militants in 2006.

Speaking in Spanish, Betancourt addressed a message to FARC leader Alfonso Cano.

"Wherever you are in the jungle ... understand that this is no longer a time to spill more blood," she said. "It's time to put down the weapons and exchange them for roses."

Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, who had campaigned for Betancourt's release, urged her supporters to continue their mobilization.

"We don't have the right to not build on the joy of finding Ingrid free," said Delanoë, a Colombian flag wrapped around his shoulders. "Our duty is still to fight for freedom, notably the freedom of the hostages in Colombia."

A bold ruse by Colombia's military succeeded in spirit-ing Betancourt and 14 other hostages to freedom. Days after her liberation, she flew to France, where she received a hero's welcome.

Beatriz Barrera, a Colombian who has been living in France for four years and attended the Paris concert, said she wanted to send a message to the FARC that "enough is enough."

'Dark Knight' sets record with \$155.34M

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Batman has sent Spidey packing as king of Hollywood's box-office superheroes.

"The Dark Knight" took in a record \$155.34 million in its first weekend, topping the previous best of \$151.1 million for "Spider-Man 3" in May 2007 and pacing Hollywood to its biggest weekend ever, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"We knew it would be big, but we never expected to dominate the marketplace like we did," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which released "The Dark Knight." The movie should shoot past the \$200 million mark by the end of the week, he said.

Hollywood set an overall revenue record of \$253 million for a three-day weekend, beat-

1. "The Dark Knight," \$155.34 million.
2. "Mamma Mia!," \$27.6 million.
3. "Hancock," \$14 million.
4. "Journey to the Center of the Earth," \$11.9 million.
5. "Hellboy II: The Golden Army," \$10 million.
6. "WALL-E," \$9.8 million.
7. "Space Chimps," \$7.4 million.
8. "Wanted," \$5.1 million.
9. "Get Smart," \$4.1 million.
10. "Kung Fu Panda," \$1.8 million.

ing the \$218.4 million haul over the weekend of July 7, 2006, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

"This weekend is such a juggernaut," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, whose musical "Mamma Mia!" debuted at No. 2

with \$27.6 million.

Factoring in higher admission prices, "Spider-Man 3" may have sold slightly more tickets than "The Dark Knight."

At 2007's average price of \$6.88, "Spider-Man 3" sold 21.96 million tickets over opening weekend. Media By Numbers estimates today's average movie prices at \$7.08, which means "The Dark Knight" would have sold 21.94 million tickets.

Revenue totals for "The Dark Knight" could change when final numbers are released Monday.

The movie's release was preceded by months of buzz and speculation over the performance of the late Heath Ledger as the Joker, Batman's nemesis. Ledger, who died in January



In this image released by Warner Bros., Christian Bale stars as Batman in "The Dark Knight."

from an accidental prescription-drug overdose, played the Joker as a demonic presence, his performance prompting predictions that the role might earn him a posthumous Academy Award nomination.

"The average opening gross of the last five 'Batman' movies is \$47 million. This tripled that, and for a reason," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "A big part of that was the Heath Ledger mystique and a phenomenal performance

that absolutely deserves the excitement surrounding it."

"The Dark Knight" reunites director Christopher Nolan with his "Batman Begins" star Christian Bale, whose vigilante crime-fighter is taunted and tested by Ledger's Joker as the villain unleashes violence and chaos on the city of Gotham.

Overseas, "The Dark Knight" added \$40 million in 20 countries where it began opening Wednesday, including Australia, Mexico and Brazil. The

film opens in Great Britain this weekend and rolls out to most of the rest of the world over the next few weeks.

"The Dark Knight," which cost \$185 million to make, also broke the "Spider-Man 3" record for best debut in IMAX large-screen theaters with \$6.2 million. "Spider-Man 3" opened with \$4.7 million in IMAX cinemas.

"Every single show is sold out," said Greg Foster, IMAX chairman and president. "We're adding shows as much as we can, but we're at 100 percent capacity."

On opening day Friday, "The Dark Knight" also took in more money than previously counted, Fellman said. The film pulled in a record \$67.85 million, up nearly \$1.5 million from the studio's estimates a day earlier.

The previous opening-day record also had been held by "Spider-Man 3" with \$59.8 million.

Women accounted for most of the audience for "Mamma Mia!," which Universal opened as counter-programming to the male-dominated audience for "The Dark Knight."

"With the crowded summer, we knew we would have to find the right weekend, and this seemed like the perfect one considering three-quarters of our audience was female," Rocco said.

Based on the stage musical set to the tunes of ABBA, "Mamma Mia!" features Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, Julie Walters and Christine Baranski.

The weekend's other new wide release, 20th Century Fox's animated family flick "Space Chimps," opened at No. 7 with \$7.4 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

McCartney plays for thousands in free show

QUEBEC CITY, Quebec (AP)—Paul McCartney churned out a Beatles-laden song list to a pumped-up crowd gathered Sunday for a free concert as part of Quebec City's 400th anniversary celebration.

McCartney opened the show with the Wings song "Jet" after which he greeted the crowd in French. The audience erupted and the band then started into the Beatles' 1965 classic "Drive My Car."

Organizers expected some 200,000 people at the outdoor show on the city's Plains of Abraham.

"C'est ma premiere visite a Quebec, and it's a great place," McCartney said, saying it was his first time there and stirring a roar from fans in response.

Tens of thousands of music fans began congregating early

Sunday in hopes of grabbing a good view.

Fan Leo Rodrigue sported a red Montreal Canadiens hockey jersey with the name "McCartney" emblazoned across the back above the number one.

Carol Cleeland traveled from New Jersey with her sister, Elizabeth, for the concert.

"We've been fans of the Beatles and Paul McCartney since the beginning," said Cleeland. "We love Paul McCartney's music and everything about him."

McCartney arrived in Quebec City Saturday evening and was greeted by hundreds of adoring fans, many of whom had waited several hours outside the Chateau Frontenac Hotel to catch a glimpse of the British knight.

Journalists yelled questions at him from a distance as he got out of his car. When one asked:

"Are you happy to be in Quebec City?" He gave a thumbs-up and shouted, "Oui."

The much-anticipated show, McCartney's only scheduled performance in North America this year, drew ire from some in the province who have questioned his participation in the weekend birthday celebrations of French-speaking Quebec City because of his British roots.

They claim his presence evokes painful memories of Britain's conquest of New France in 1760.

In an interview with Radio-Canada earlier this week, the 66-year-old bassist brushed off the nationalists' claims.

"I think it's time to smoke the pipes of peace and to just, you know, put away your hatchet because I think it's a show of friendship," McCartney said.

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	Dark Knight	Synopsis
	Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00	A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. ~ Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide
	Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13	

	Space Chimps	Synopsis
	Fri & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05	Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.
	Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines, Kenan Thompson, Stanley Tucci Family-Oriented Comedy • Rated PG	

	Mamma Mia	Meet Dave
	Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20	Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20
	Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård, Julie Walters Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G	Eddie Murphy, Elizabeth Banks Sci-Fi Comedy • Rated PG

	Hellboy II	Hancock
	Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:40 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15	Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30
	Selma Blair and Ron Perlman Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13	Will Smith, Charlize Theron Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

	Journey To The Center Of The Earth	Wanted
	Fri & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:10 9:45 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:10	Fri & Sat 7:25 9:50 Sun thru Thurs 7:25
	Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem, Josh Hutcherson Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG	James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie Action • Rated R

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Couric: I'm staying put



Doherty

By MATEA GOLD
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—Katie Couric said she's not going anywhere—at least not any time soon.

Facing the media for the first time since reports surfaced this spring that she was preparing to leave the CBS News anchor chair after the presidential election, Couric said Friday that she's staying put.

"We have no plans to part company any time soon," Couric said at the Television Critics Association Press Tour. "And

there were a lot of speculative pieces that I think got, quite frankly, spun out of control."

Couric and CBS News President Sean McManus said that media reports suggesting that she planned to leave the third-place "CBS Evening News" after the election or the next presidential inauguration if the ratings don't improve were wrong.

"That is not true," McManus said.

The anchor referred obliquely to talks she had with CBS executives earlier this year about her future on the broadcast. In the discussions, Couric

and network officials agreed to table any decision until after the presidential election.

"You know, we always assess how the show is doing and what direction we want to go in. And so clearly when you work for an organization you have ongoing discussions," Couric said. "But I'm very committed to the people here."

Speaking via satellite from New York, Couric told reporters that "it's befuddling to me the amount of attention I have received." "I spend every day really focused on doing the best job I can," she said.

Doherty back in '90210' 'hood this fall

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Brenda Walsh is all grown-up and returning to Beverly Hills, 90210, this fall. But cast members of the new CW spin-off, "90210," are speculating whether Shannen Doherty will be equally mature when she reprises her role as Walsh.

"I have heard some of the stories," "90210" star AnnaLynne McCord said of the sometimes-volatile relationship between Doherty and co-star Jennie Garth on the original series, which aired from 1990-2000.

Garth is returning to her role as Kelly Taylor, now a school guidance counselor, on "90210."

In the new series, Doherty's Walsh is now a famous theater director invited back to West Beverly Hills High School to stage a musical, CW announced Saturday at a Television Critics Association meeting in, of course, Beverly Hills.

Her guest role plays out over multiple episodes, the network said.

"If she and Jennie have it out while I'm there, OK, then, all right, so that's the story," McCord said of any possible discord during production.

"We're co-workers, we're going to be co-stars and I want to treat her (Doherty) with the respect that I would treat any other co-star," said McCord, who played the evil Eden on FX's "Nip/Tuck."

Ryan Eggold, McCord's co-star, is betting the Doherty vibe "will be 100 percent fine for us, for the new kids, because we have no history with her. We have no problems with her and I'm sure she's going to come to this with a wonderful attitude."

Added executive producer Gabe Sachs, "There isn't any tension. No one's been on the set yet but I think they'll be OK," he says of Garth and Doherty. Then he laughed. "I don't think they've gotten together and had dinner yet," he told The Associated Press.

Doherty's publicist did not immediately respond to an e-mail request for comment Saturday night.

McCord paid Doherty a compliment.

Troyer reaches settlement in sex tape lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Verne Troyer has settled a lawsuit he filed against a porn broker after the defendant agreed not to distribute a sex tape depicting Troyer and a former girlfriend, court documents filed Friday show.

Troyer filed a \$20 million lawsuit against porn broker Kevin Blatt, distributor SugarDVD and celebrity gossip Web site TMZ after snippets of the 50-minute tape were released last month.

Records show Blatt and SugarDVD have signed agreements requiring that they get Troyer's approval before selling or distributing the tape or any images from it.

Edwin McPherson, one of

Troyer's attorneys, said the actor has no intention of ever granting approval.

McPherson said he planned to amend the lawsuit on Monday to try to prevent Ranae Shrider, Troyer's ex-girlfriend, from releasing the tape.

Shrider leaked snippets of the tape to TMZ, according to a statement filed in federal court by the site. Shrider indicated the tape was recorded on her video equipment and that she was a partial owner.

Troyer, who is best-known for his role as Mini Me in two of the "Austin Powers" movies, has been seeking the return of the tape.

McPherson said other peo-

ple or companies may also be sued to prevent the tape from being released.

Records do not indicate whether U.S. District Judge Philip Gutierrez, who has presided over the case, signed off on the agreements Friday afternoon. But since all parties agreed to them, McPherson said he saw no reason why they wouldn't be granted.

"We achieved our goal," McPherson said.

The agreements do not place any restrictions on TMZ, which won a judge's approval to restore an online posting about the tape's existence after it was originally ordered removed by Gutierrez.



AP

In this image released by 20th Century Fox, David Duchovny, left, and Gillian Anderson are shown in a scene from, "The X-Files: I Want to Believe."

Anderson: Reprising Scully character was 'odd'

NEW YORK (AP)—Gillian Anderson says getting back into Dana Scully's character for "The X-Files: I Want to Believe" was harder than she expected.

"It was a little odd," Anderson told Newsweek for its July 21 issue. "It was more disconcerting than I anticipated. I expected it to be a breeze. But I tried so hard since the series ended to do things as different as possible

from the character.

"When I was faced with making acting decisions on that character again, my brain started backfiring and internally combusting," she said.

Anderson, who is pregnant with her third child, said she has also been spending time buying and selling houses in London, California, Canada and elsewhere.

"I like doing up houses and getting into the architecture," she told the magazine.

"The X-Files" ran from 1993-2002 on the Fox network. Anderson reunites with co-star David Duchovny for "The X-Files: I Want to Believe," the second feature film spun off from the paranormal series.

The movie will be in theaters July 25.

Summer heat turns locked car into furnace for helpless pet

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "No Dogs in the Car" you printed last year (Aug. 6) appeared one day too late for me. I pulled into a supermarket parking lot on a hot afternoon and, as I was getting out of my car, I heard a dog barking and whining. It was a sweet little Yorkshire terrier that had been locked in a brand-new luxury vehicle with the windows barely cracked open. I couldn't tell how long he had been there, but his barking suggested he was not comfortable. I walked over to see if I could open the door.



Dear Abby

A well-dressed woman came out of the store, saw me and shrieked, "Why are you standing next to my car?" I explained that because of the heat, her dog should not have been left in the enclosed vehicle. Her response? "Mind your own business, you dumb (rhymes-with-witch)!" she screamed and then stormed off.

I read the letter in your column from "No Dogs" the following day and made a copy. I hope I run into that "charming" woman again so I can hand her one.

BONNIE'S MOM IN BEVERLY HILLS

DEAR BONNIE'S MOM: Your letter is timely because in parts of the country the temperature is soaring. And people frequently forget how quickly the temperature rises in an enclosed vehicle. Every summer we hear sad stories about pets perishing in parked cars.

But I digress. For your own safety, please don't hand that ill-mannered woman anything. Instead, leave it under her windshield wiper. Read on for what other readers say on this important subject:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My animal services' phone number is programmed into my cell phone, and I used it recently when I saw a small dog locked in a hot car one afternoon. I called animal services and gave the location and description of the vehicle.

An animal control officer arrived within five minutes and stuck a thermometer in the window. Determining that the dog wasn't in immediate danger, he left a one-hour notice on the vehicle. If the owner returned within the hour, he would get a warning. If, however, the officer returned in an hour and the owner still had not appeared, the officer would break in and release the poor animal.

It's a useful number for animal lovers to keep on hand.

READER IN RENO, NEV.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: According to the Arizona Humane Society, NEVER leave your pet in a parked car. Leaving a pet in a car on a hot day is not only against the law, it would lead to charges of animal cruelty. If you see an animal in a locked car, call your Humane Society Rescue Unit. They can respond more quickly than the police. But if the police are called, they can legally break a window.

P.V.S. IN PHOENIX

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: While attending the 1994 Gator National Drag Race in Gainesville, Fla., an announcement was made for the owners of an '89 Buick station wagon to please get their dog out of the car. Fifteen minutes later, a new announcement: "For the owners of the '89 Buick station wagon, we have good news and bad news. The good news is, your dog is fine. The bad news is, your passenger side window is now broken."

Everyone in the stands cheered!

MITCH IN ROXBORO, N.C.

DEAR MITCH: Thanks for writing. I love a happy ending.

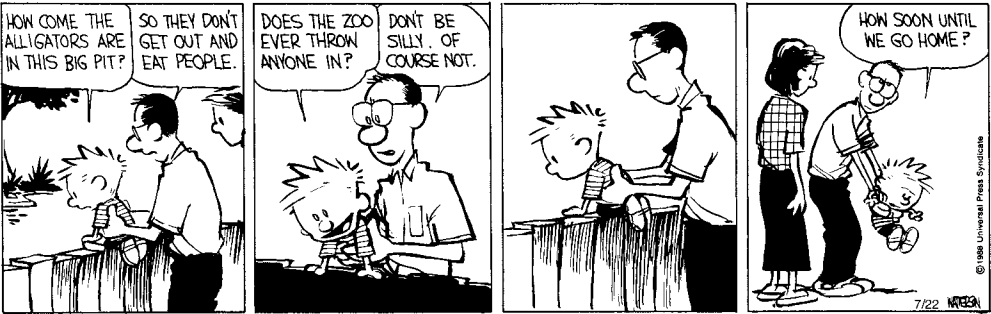
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

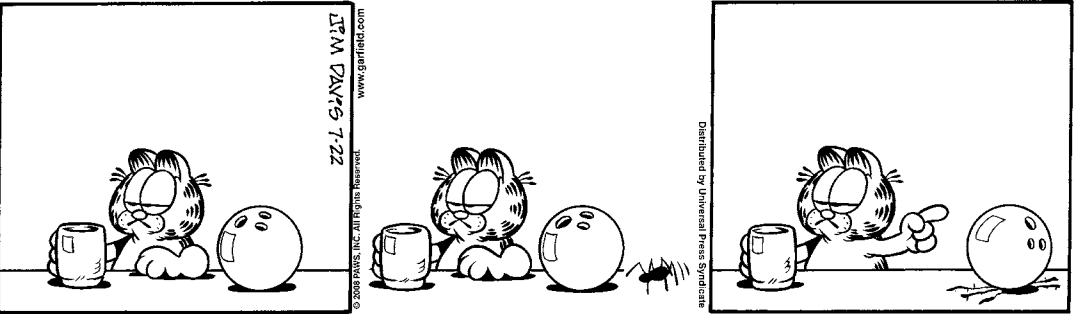
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Oxidation result
 - 5 Police officer
 - 8 Runs for exercise
 - 12 Neighborhood
 - 13 Kyoto cummerbund
 - 14 Lotion additive
 - 15 Scouts' festival
 - 17 Carriage
 - 18 Clay, now
 - 19 Jailer's implement
 - 20 Scrub a NASA mission
 - 21 Pickle container
 - 22 Bikini half
 - 23 English composition
 - 26 Get back
 - 30 Paper quantity
 - 31 Get a glimpse of
 - 32 Helper
 - 33 "Nobody — the Spanish Inquisition!"
- DOWN**
- 35 "Don Juan" writer
 - 36 Sauce source
 - 37 Shell-game need
 - 38 Seabird of the gannet family
 - 41 Snip
 - 42 Historic time
 - 45 Therefore
 - 46 Kingston resident
 - 48 Fix a hole
 - 49 Cleopatra's slayer
 - 50 Midi terminus
 - 51 Coaster
 - 52 Petrol
- CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Rufus Wainwright, 35; Albert Brooks, 61; Danny Glover, 62; Alex Trebek, 68
- Happy Birthday:** Take off, try something new and get motivated to make overdue changes. Take the initiative to make things happen and embrace the opportunity to change direction or get a new job. Don't think or talk about what you should do—take action and make it so. Your numbers are 3, 12, 24, 31, 35, 49
- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Get out with friends, work on a hobby or book a spa or golf day. Spend time with people you find entertaining and enjoyable. Love is mounting and talking about feelings, although difficult, will provide greater understanding. ★★★
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put in a little extra of whatever is needed to make your life, your home, your relationships better. Give-and-take is the answer. A trip will help you realize how easy it is to adjust to new lifestyles. ★★★★★
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** If you aren't getting things done because you are concentrating on your love life, you may want to rework your schedule. Taking care of your responsibilities will help, not hinder, what you are going through personally. ★★
- CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Taking a chance doesn't mean risking everything but it can help you get ahead. A new job or pastime will expand your knowledge and challenge you to more thought. Make alterations at home for more comfort and security. ★★★★★
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Strength and courage are all it will take to win any challenge you face. Don't let your emotions cause you to give someone too much. Generosity can be a gracious gift but also can lead to being taken advantage of. ★★★★★
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Consider getting into serious talks with partners and you will resolve issues that are bothering you. Once you explain the way you feel and what your intentions are, it will be clear that you are doing what is necessary. ★★★
- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't take no for an answer if you really want to spend time with someone. Nurture an important relationship you are in before it's too late. Join forces with someone who can help you find solutions to problems. ★★★★★
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Love may be enticing but, you have to get your work done first. You can talk your way in and out of situations with ease. A creative idea must be taken seriously. Your mind will be open to what's being offered. ★★★★★
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Give in a little and you'll discover that someone who really cares for you has more to offer in return. You will benefit through the people you encounter and the things you learn if you don't exaggerate or talk too much about your own talents or services. ★★
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** One door will open when another one closes. Be confident and sure of yourself. There

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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is change heading your way, along with profits. Aggressive action will bring the results you want. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you are quick to make your move and do something special for someone you have a personal interest in, you will make a lasting impression. Put your talent to good use. An interesting career change or chance to try your hand at something new is evident. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have a difficult time controlling the way you feel, especially when dealing with partners or people who can influence your future. Be prepared to talk your way around any situation that arises that may leave you holding too much of the responsibility and not enough payback. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are unique, giving, creative and intense. You are emotional and challenging, a nonconformist and a humanitarian.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		8	5				2	6	
4									1
3				8		7			4
			1		8		9		
				6		5			
		6		3		7			
8				1	6				5
5									9
	1	7					8	3	

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/22 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	2	7	5	3	6	4	9
4	5	9	1	8	6	7	3	2
6	7	3	2	9	4	8	1	5
3	9	7	8	6	1	5	2	4
1	8	5	4	7	2	9	6	3
2	6	4	5	3	9	1	8	7
9	3	8	6	2	7	4	5	1
7	4	6	3	1	5	2	9	8
5	2	1	9	4	8	3	7	6

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WORDS THAT START WITH THE LETTER J Solution: 7 letters

J	U	J	E	E	R	L	A	C	I	D	I	R	U	J
S	A	K	E	Y	N	O	S	A	J	H	E	Y	J	A
U	V	N	E	J	J	A	T	O	S	S	L	M	A	S
O	A	O	E	C	E	Y	I	J	E	G	M	C	M	
L	J	Y	C	I	J	S	W	U	N	M	G	I	K	I
A	C	I	S	E	T	E	L	E	J	A	I	J	P	N
E	U	S	T	I	J	I	J	O	L	J	J	U	O	E
J	E	S	C	T	A	U	S	O	E	A	A	S	T	L
J	M	K	B	N	E	E	R	O	C	O	C	T	N	I
S	O	N	U	J	P	R	P	O	P	K	K	I	E	N
U	R	J	O	H	N	A	B	M	R	A	E	F	M	E
S	E	Y	E	S	R	E	J	U	U	X	T	Y	G	V
E	J	J	U	D	A	I	S	M	G	J	S	X	D	U
J	U	R	Y	L	L	E	J	R	E	L	G	G	U	J
J	O	B	S	M	S	I	L	A	N	R	U	O	J	J

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Jackets, Jackpot, Jacob, James, Janitor, Jasmine, Jason, Java, Jealous, Jeer, Jelly, Jeopardy, Jerome, Jersey, Jessica, Jesus, Jets, Jewel, Jewish, Jiggle, Jimmy, Jitterbug, Jobs, Jockey, Joey, John, Joseph, Journalism, Joyce, Joystick, Judaism, Judgment, Juggler, Juice, Julian, Jump, Juno, Juridical, Juror, Jury, Justify, Juvenile, Juxtaposition
Yesterday's Answer: Salted
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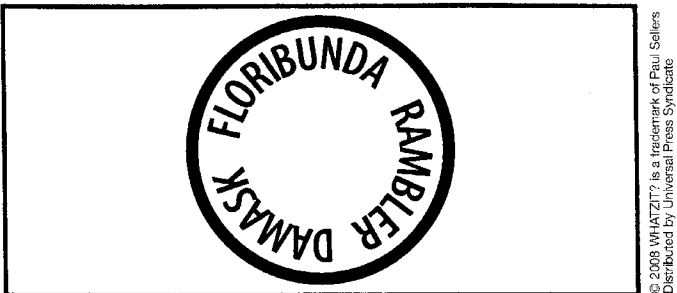
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Sacrifice fly enables Yankees to hold off A's



NEW YORK
(AP)—Andy Pettitte outpitched Major League

Baseball All-Star Justin Duchschere, getting just enough run support from Jason Giambi's homer and a sacrifice fly by Alex Rodriguez to help the New York Yankees hold off the Oakland Athletics 2-1 on Sunday for a three-game sweep.

The Yankees (53-45) won their seventh straight at home and climbed a season-best eight games over .500. Their winning streak at Yankee Stadium is their longest since September.

The A's have dropped five straight, managing just nine runs in the process.

Blue Jays 9, Rays 4

St. Petersburg, Florida, Alex Rios and Marco Scutaro homered, and Toronto avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over American League East Division-leading Tampa Bay.

Scutaro hit a three-run shot off Edwin Jackson (5-7) in the fifth to put the Blue Jays ahead 6-4. Rios had a two-run homer in the third and added a run-scoring double during a three-run seventh.

Shawn Camp (3-1) threw 1 2-3 scoreless innings for the win. The Blue Jays won for the fourth time in 17 road games.

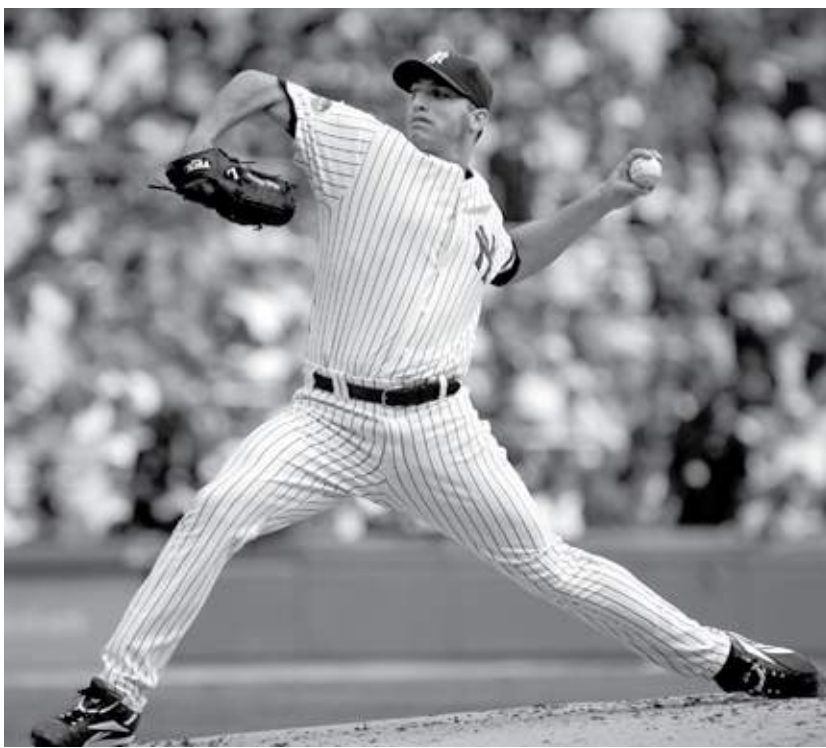
Indians 6, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Cliff Lee followed up his MLB All-Star Game start with his second complete game of the season, scattering 11 hits in Cleveland's victory over Seattle.

Lee became the American League's first 13-game winner and Kelly Shopach ended an 0-for-13 funk with a three-run homer off Carlos Silva in the fourth. Silva (4-12) left with back tightness immediately after the home run, the latest ailment for Seattle's sick, injured and ineffective rotation.

Rangers 1, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Taylor Teagarden broke up Scott Baker's perfect-game



New York Yankees' Andy Pettitte pitches during the second inning of their Major League Baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Sunday, July 20, 2008, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

bid with a sixth-inning home run for his first MLB hit, and Vicente Padilla pitched Texas past Minnesota.

The Rangers denied the Twins their fourth series sweep over the past month, handing them just their eighth defeat in 31 games. Baker (6-3) took a hard-luck loss, his first in six starts.

Tigers 5, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Justin Verlander came within an out of completing a three-hitter, and Detroit got home runs from Magglio Ordonez and Marcus Thames to hand Baltimore its 15th consecutive Sunday loss.

Ryan Raburn had two RBIs for the Tigers, who split the four-game series and moved back to a .500 (49-49) record.

Verlander (8-9) was replaced by Todd Jones after allowing his second walk of the ninth inning. Jones then walked Aubrey Huff before retiring

Kevin Millar on a grounder to end it.

Verlander retired 16 straight batters between a second-inning double by Luke Scott and a seventh-inning double by Millar. The right-hander is unbeaten in eight starts since June 6.

Royals 8, White Sox 7

In Chicago, Esteban German hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the eighth inning to lead Kansas City over Chicago.

German was 3-for-3 with two RBIs and Mike Aviles had three hits for the Royals, who have won five of seven. Joakim Soria got three outs for his 26th save and Ramon Ramirez (1-1) earned the win.

Left fielder Jose Guillen preserved Kansas City's one-run lead in the eighth by throwing out A.J. Pierzynski at the plate on Brian Anderson's single.

Jim Thome doubled in the seventh

inning for his 2,000th career hit and Joe Crede hit a three-run homer for the White Sox, who have lost five of seven. Nick Swisher had a two-run shot.

Angels 5, Red Sox 3

In Anaheim, California, Casey Kotchman hit a two-run double to cap a three-run rally in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles beat Boston for their fifth straight victory.

With another late comeback, the Angels completed their first three-game sweep of Boston in seven years. Los Angeles scored four runs in the seventh Saturday for a 4-2 win.

The Angels became the first team in MLB to win 60 games this season, and the victory was their fifth in six meetings with Boston, enabling them to clinch their first season series against the Red Sox since 2001.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2

In Miami, Jorge Cantu hit a bases-loaded single off the scoreboard with none out in the 11th inning, and the Florida Marlins tightened the NL East race by beating the Philadelphia Phillies.

Alfredo Amezaga led off the 11th with a single against Clay Condrey (2-2), and Hanley Ramirez walked on a 3-2 pitch. Jeremy Hermida bunted to Condrey, who looked to third base before throwing late to first, and the infield single loaded the bases.

Cantu singled on a 1-1 pitch and was mobbed by his teammates.

By winning two of three games in the series, the Marlins closed to within one-half game of the Phillies and New York Mets.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Andre Ethier hit a go-ahead triple to highlight a five-run ninth-inning rally and Los Angeles beat Arizona.

The Dodgers took two of three from Arizona to pull even with the Diamondbacks in the National League's West Division

Cubs 9, Astros 0

In Houston, Ryan Dempster struck out seven in eight shutout innings to earn his first road win in two years and Chicago snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Houston.

Mike Fontenot hit a solo homer and a two-run double and Derrek Lee had three RBIs to help Chicago shake out a mini-offensive slump that bridged the Major League Baseball All-Star Game break.

Dempster (11-4) allowed six hits, all singles, and got his first road win since June 2, 2006, at St. Louis.

Mets 7, Reds 5, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, third baseman Edwin Encarnacion hit one of Cincinnati's three homers off Mike Pelfrey, then made a throwing error in the 10th inning that helped New York rally for a victory and a split of their four-game series.

The Mets have won 11 of their last 13 games, salvaging their season one month after they fired manager Willie Randolph.

Rockies 11, Pirates 3

In Denver, Matt Holliday and Jeff Baker homered and had three hits each, Aaron Cook won his team-leading 12th game and Colorado completed a four-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

Cook (12-6) was roughed up for three runs in the first but gave up just one hit over his final six innings to get the victory.

Clint Barmes had three hits and Ian Stewart was 2-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs for the Rockies, who swept a four-game series for the first time this season.

Brewers 7, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Ryan Braun hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-high five runs, pitcher Manny Parra had an RBI single en route to winning his eighth straight decision and Milwaukee completed a season sweep of San Francisco.

Corey Hart added a solo shot for the Brewers, who took all six meetings with the Giants this year.

Tim Lincecum (11-3) struck out eight in his first start since missing last Tuesday's All-Star game and being hospitalized in New York with the flu and dehydration.

Nationals 15, Braves 6

In Atlanta, former Braves outfielder Willie Harris drove in five runs and reached base five times, Jesus Flores had five hits and Austin Kearns hit a two-run homer as Washington routed Atlanta.

Washington outscored Atlanta 23-8 to win the last two games of the series.

The only highlights for Atlanta were two homers by Mark Teixeira, who had three hits and drove in three runs, and a two-run homer by Martin Prado in the fourth off Odalis Perez (3-7).

Cardinals 9, Padres 5

St. Louis, Aaron Miles' grand slam in the ninth inning, the first game-ending hit of his career, helped St. Louis recover from another blown save by Jason Istringhausen to wrap up a four-game sweep of San Diego.

Troy Glaus' three-run homer off Heath Bell in the eighth gave the Cardinals a two-run lead but the Padres rallied against Istringhausen, who blew his eighth save in 19 chances.

Giants deal Durham to Brewers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ray Durham wore a Giants uniform for the last time, then packed up his locker and went to join the Milwaukee Brewers on the other side of the ballpark before leaving town with his new team.

San Francisco traded the veteran second baseman to the Brewers for two minor leaguers, with both clubs waiting until after the teams played Sunday to announce the swap. That, in fact, was per Durham's request as he didn't want to suit up for his first game for Milwaukee against the Giants.

"Personally it was out of respect for the guys in this locker room," Durham said, saying his goodbyes in the Giants' clubhouse. "It really was a stipulation I asked for."

An emotional Durham could only stand to be in the Giants' dugout for a few innings during the series finale against Milwaukee, but was prepared to make the switch right afterward and head to St. Louis with the Brewers. The 36-year-old second baseman, in his sixth season with San Francisco and the final year of a two-year contract, had to approve the deal.

"He's a veteran guy that can come in here and help our club," Milwaukee general manager Doug Melvin said. "We're trying to add as many good players as

we can. We're trying to win this thing."

Giants GM Brian Sabean met with Durham during Saturday's game about the trade, which came together quickly after Sabean spoke by phone with Melvin while both were in New York for the All-Star game.

Milwaukee also receives cash considerations in the deal.

"I was out there for 2 1/2 or three innings and had to come back in. I was caught between a rock and a hard place," Durham said, acknowledging he was watching the NL Central teams' results on the out-of-town scoreboard. "That's all I could really take. It was a weird feeling, being out there actually rooting for both teams."

Milwaukee, vying for its first postseason berth since 1982, already made one of the biggest trades of the season, acquiring CC Sabathia from the Cleveland Indians before the All-Star break.

The Brewers, who won their fourth straight with Sunday's 7-4 victory, are three games back of NL Central-leading Chicago and one behind the Cardinals as they head to St. Louis.

"I think ownership and upper management have shown a commitment to winning and winning now, so it's very exciting to us," Milwaukee left fielder

Ryan Braun said.

San Francisco received left-hander Steve Hammond and outfielder Darren Ford in the trade.

Durham was a late arrival to the ballpark, getting to the clubhouse in a rush about 2 hours before the game with a bag on his shoulder. He was held out of San Francisco's starting lineup, but manager Bruce Bochy said he was available for the game. Emmanuel Burriss started at second and Durham never got in the game.

Now, Burriss and Eugenio Velez likely will get the bulk of the playing time at second.

"I understood it," Durham said. "I know this organization, they're trying to go young and they're rebuilding for the future. It didn't shock me."

Brewers manager Ned Yost said initially Durham would play a couple of days a week, with Rickie Weeks remaining the starter at second.

"He brings a guy that is a really, really good offensive player, a switch-hitter who can hit good pitching," Yost said of Durham. "He's a solid offensive player and he's a veteran guy that's really good with younger players. He fits right into what our veterans bring every day into the clubhouse."

Redskins get Jason Taylor from Dolphins



ASHBURN, Va.

(AP)—Jason Taylor wanted out of Miami, and Bill Parcells seemed only too happy to trade the “Dancing with the Stars” defensive end.

So when the Washington Redskins lost a starting lineman to a season-ending injury Sunday, a significant swap quickly got done.

The Redskins gave the Dolphins a second-round pick in 2009 and a sixth-round choice in 2010 for Taylor, who is leaving the only NFL team he’s known.

The six-time Pro Bowl defensive end—who was the 2006 NFL Defensive Player of the Year—fell out of favor in Miami after spending his offseason on a TV show rather than working out with teammates.

The deal came about nine hours after starting defensive end Phillip Daniels was carted away from the practice field at Redskins Park with a season-ending left knee injury on Day 1 of training camp.

It also came only about 1 1/2 hours after Washington executive vice president Vinny Cerrato told reporters: “We haven’t talked to anybody about anything.”

When he later announced the deal with the Dolphins, Cerrato said Taylor was expected to report to the Redskins on Monday, when he’ll meet team owner Dan Snyder and undergo a physical.

“We’re fortunate there was a guy that caliber on the market when somebody got hurt,” Cerrato said. “Normally, in most years, there’s not a guy of that caliber on the market.”

The 33-year-old Taylor has played 11 NFL seasons, all with Miami, and he’s started every game each of the past eight years.

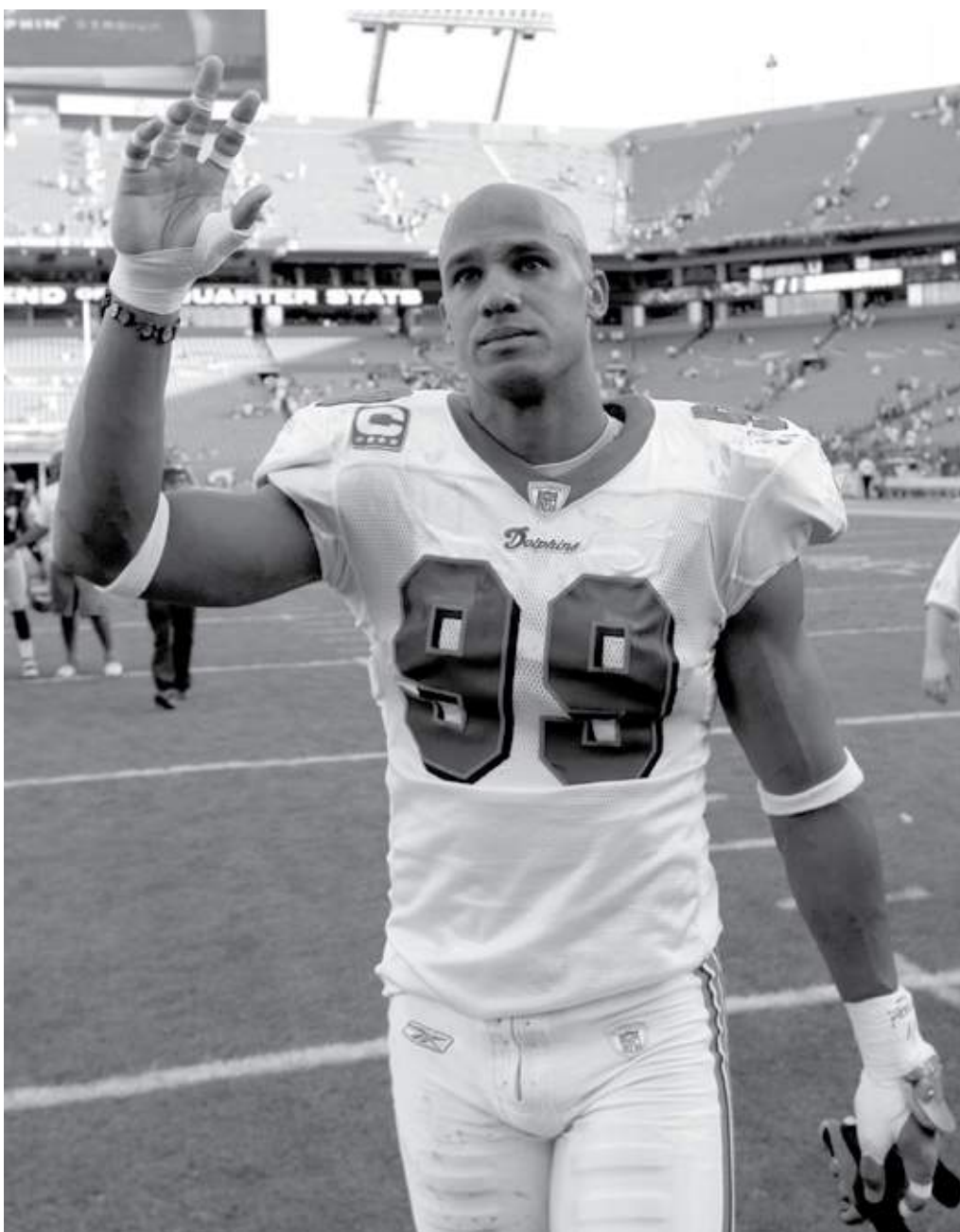
“I love Miami (and) will always cherish my 11 years with the Dolphins,” Taylor said in a statement. “Having said that, I’m looking forward to meeting with Mr. Snyder and getting to know my new coaches and teammates. I’m just proud to be representing our nation’s capital as a Redskin.”

Taylor had 11 sacks during the 2007 season, giving him 117 over his career.

“His play speaks for itself. I think it’s easy to talk about Jason Taylor. He’s got statistics and everything else to back up everything that he’s done,” Cerrato said. “So we had to act after losing our starting defensive end Phillip Daniels, and talked to Parcells after practice today and we were able to work something out.”

Taylor said last month that his intention is to play one more season, and it seems clear that he wants to pursue a Hollywood acting career. That said, Taylor privately has told confidants that he isn’t certain that he’ll retire after 2008.

Cerrato noted Taylor has two years left on his contract and added: “I’m 100 percent positive he’ll play longer than one year.”



In this Dec. 30, 2007 file photo, Miami Dolphins defensive end Jason Taylor waves as he leaves the field following the Dolphins’ 38-25 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals during a football game at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Taylor’s agent, Gary Wichard, said it’s possible Taylor will play beyond the coming season.

“The Dolphins got real good value for Jason,” Wichard said. “And he’s

excited about going to Washington—he wanted an opportunity to compete in the playoffs in 2008. At the same time, this is the end of his years with the Dolphins, so it’s kind of bittersweet.”

Schleck takes Tour lead after 15th stage



PRATO NEVO-
SO, Italy (AP)—
Frank Schleck of
Luxembourg likes
to attack. He also

likes the look of his yellow jersey.

He became the new leader of the Tour de France on Sunday. Whether that lasts remains to be seen. The race is now in the Alps, where countless riders have been broken.

“Don’t kick me while I’m happy,” Schleck said.

His jump to the front of cycling’s showpiece event came on a day when Simon Gerrans of Australia won the 15th stage. Gerrans was not chased by the leading contenders. It was the first time he won a stage in four Tour appearances, a victory he called a “beautiful thing.”

Schleck, who came into the stage one second behind Cadel Evans, sped ahead at the finish to wrest the yellow jersey from the Australian. Schleck leads Bernhard Kohl of Austria by seven seconds. Evans slipped to third, eight seconds back.

“For me to take the yellow jersey, it’s a childhood dream,” Schleck said.

Schleck credited CSC teammate and

younger brother Andy for surging ahead at least twice during the final climb in a bid to force Evans to work hard.

“Thanks, bro,” Frank Schleck said.

Schleck has had success before in the Alps, winning a Tour stage in 2006 up the famed Alpe d’Huez, which riders will face Wednesday. He now wants to build his lead in the mountains, knowing that Evans most likely will be stronger in the time trial during the next-to-last stage before the July 27 finish in Paris.

“If I can, I will attack,” Frank Schleck said. “I have to take some time out of these guys of course if I want to win the Tour. But let me just enjoy it right now.”

Trying to move beyond a string of doping scandals, the Tour has gotten tighter as it heads into the third and final week. Five riders are within 49 seconds of the leader—up from three before Stage 15 started. Six riders have now worn the yellow jersey.

Some riders sensed Evans wasn’t at his best Sunday.

“On a hilltop finish like this you don’t need to have magic, you just got to have a strong team on the front,” CSC rider Jens Voigt said. “Do hard

tempo on the last climb, and our leaders take care of business. Put the hammer down basically.”

Hendrik Redant, sporting manager of Evans’ Silence Lotto team, played down the Australian’s loss of the yellow jersey.

“I don’t think Cadel was struggling too much,” Redant said. “All the favorites are bunched together, and Cadel’s within 10 seconds of the lead. It’s good for him and it’s good for the Tour.”

Riders confronted three climbs—including one nearly 13 miles up the Agnel pass that is so tough it defies classification in cycling’s rating system—and an uphill finish to complete the 114-mile route from Embrun, France, to Prato Nevoso.

Evans, who has said his team isn’t the strongest in the mountains, came under repeated attack. On the final climb, top contender Denis Menchov of Russia skidded off his bike on a sharp turn while leading one attack. He got back up and still finished 27 seconds ahead of Evans.

Menchov is fourth overall, 38 seconds back, followed by American rider Christian Vande Velde, 39 seconds behind. Spain’s Carlos Sastre, also on

The new Dolphins regime led by Parcells, the executive vice president of football operations, fumed this offseason as Taylor focused on non-football interests rather than working out in South Florida.

Taylor finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi in this year’s “Dancing With the Stars” competition in Los Angeles, and as he became a TV celebrity, his feud with Parcells escalated. At one point Taylor said he was unhappy he had spoken “probably less than a minute each” with Parcells and new general manager Jeff Ireland—something the player perceived as a sort of silent treatment.

In mid-May, Dolphins coach Tony Sparano made a cryptic announcement that Taylor wasn’t expected to take part in any team activities through training camp. That signaled the Dolphins were intent on making a trade—especially because in April, they had drafted two potential replacements for him: Clemson’s Phillip Merling in the second round, and Hampton’s Kendall Langford in the third round.

The Dolphins released statements from Ireland and owner Wayne Huizenga thanking Taylor for his contributions. There was no comment from Parcells.

“Ever since he joined the team as a rookie, he has been outstanding on the field and a leader in our community,” Huizenga said. “Whether it was his intensity between the lines or his commitment to his charitable works, he made a lasting

Jaguars’ Porter has hamstring tendon surgery

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Jaguars wide receiver Jerry Porter had surgery Friday to repair a torn hamstring tendon and will miss all the preseason.

It was a significant setback for a team with Super Bowl expectations.

Porter signed a six-year, \$30 million contract with Jacksonville in February and was supposed to give the team its first go-to receiver since Jimmy Smith retired. But he missed most of mini-camp and organized team activities with hamstring problems.

Team doctors thought it would heal during the layoff before training camp, but decided Friday that surgery would be the best option to ensure Porter would be healthy during the season.

The Jaguars said Porter would be out six to eight weeks, with hopes that he could be ready for the Sept. 7 season opener at Tennessee.

impact here.”

If the trade had not been made, Wichard said, Taylor planned to report to the Dolphins before their camp starts Saturday. There had been speculation Taylor might hold out.

Last season, he was chosen NFL Man of the Year and was the lone Pro Bowl player for a Dolphins team that went 1-15. His departure is the latest move in a major roster shakeup.

Zach Thomas, the other anchor of the Dolphins’ defense over the past decade, was released in February and signed with the Dallas Cowboys—meaning he and Taylor, who are brothers-in-law, go from being teammates to being members of NFC East rivals.

Team CSC, trails by 49 seconds.

Gerrans, of the Credit Agricole team, led a four-man group that broke away from the main pack early in the stage and clocked 4 hours, 50 minutes, 44 seconds to beat Spain’s Egoi Martinez in second by three seconds. U.S. rider Danny Pate was third, 10 seconds behind.

The race lost two notable riders—Spain’s Oscar Pereiro and Britain’s Mark Cavendish.

Pereiro, the 2006 winner, broke his left shoulder when he crashed over a guard rail during a sharp turn. He was injured about 49 miles into the stage and was taken to a hospital in Cuneo. Pereiro won the Tour two years ago after Floyd Landis was stripped of his title for doping.

Cavendish, a sprinter who won four stages in this race, pulled out before a day of mountain racing. His team said he was fatigued and the Alps posed too big an obstacle. Cavendish will now concentrate on next month’s Olympics.

Riders take the second rest day Monday before two more grueling stages in the Alps, starting with a 98-mile ride from Cuneo to Jausiers, France, on Tuesday that features two daunting climbs.

Continuation of FMI championship tonight

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



The final 3:30 of the do-or-die championship game between Ol'Aces and Advance X-Terminators in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League will be played tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. This according to league coordinator Boy Garcia, who said that the game will resume at exactly 6:30pm and would im-

mediately be followed by an awards ceremony. The third and deciding game for the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League's championship was first played Thursday but a power outage hit the Oleai Sports Complex at around 10:20pm, delaying Ol'Aces' march to the title as they led 109-96. Ol'Aces routed Advance X-Terminators in Game 1 last July 10, 129-93, behind the 51 points of scoring machine Freddie Pelisamen. But the Bug Busters roared

right back in Game 2 last July 13, getting 39 points from youngster Jonathan Lim in their 123-114 victory. Advance X-Terminators won despite another 52-point performance from Pelisamen. Advance X-Terminators were supposed to be the favorites in Game 3 last Thursday with the absence of Ol'Aces' 6'3" menacing center Abong Camacho, who had to ship off to Guam where he is awaiting redeployment to Iraq. But Advance X-Terminators' advantage proved non-existent as it missed the services of the

ever-reliable 6'1" Edsel Mendoza in Game 3. He reportedly was injured while playing for his company, PTI, in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League the evening before. And to make matters worse for Advance X-Terminators, Camacho's replacement, Jack Lizama, proved be yet another headache for the team and god-send for Ol'Aces as the youngster already fired 26 points in Game 3 to complement the 27 of Jericho Cruz and the 40 of

Pelisamen. Aside from the winner of the open division, Garcia and Friends of Mariana Islands will also fete GEC Pawnshop, the champions of the 40-and-over division, tonight.

GEC Pawnshop beat pennant champions Taga Warriors, 102-95, in Game 2 of their own best-of-three finals in the 40-and-over division in last Thursday's opener. It took Game 1 last July 14 to the tune of 106-96.

HARRINGTON

From Page 28

not have come at a better time. Harrington moved to the top of Europe's Ryder Cup standings, and the victory moved him to No. 3 in the world ranking behind Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. "I'm quite enjoying this," Harrington said, cradling the claret jug. "I don't think I'll get down off the stage." Norman played a familiar role as the tragic figure. He lost his two-shot lead after the third hole and wound up in a tie for third with Henrik Stenson, who shot 71. The 77 was one shot better than the last time Norman led a major, closing with a 78 in the 1996 Masters. "I walk away from here disappointed, but with my head

held high, because I hung in there," Norman said. Poulter thought he could bring England its first British Open since Nick Faldo in 1992, playing bogey-free over his final 15 holes. He went to the practice range in case of a playoff, but put his clubs away when he saw that Harrington made eagle on the 17th hole. "I can only do what I can do," Poulter said. "And I done my best." Norman tried to keep alive his hopes with a 35-foot par putt on the 14th, and a shot from a pot bunker that made him spin backward, turning to see the ball land 4 feet away at the 15th for his only birdie of the day. Harrington, however, didn't back down. "Padraig played brilliantly today, even though he tried to let it get away in the middle of the round," Norman said. "He

came back and performed brilliantly, and he finished like a true champion." The leaderboard featured a familiar name, missing an "s." Chris Wood, a 20-year-old amateur from England, closed in on the lead until three straight bogeys on the back nine. He finished with a 72 and tied for fifth at 10-over 290 with Jim Furyk (71). "It's been the best week of my life," Wood said. Norman felt much the same, except for the final day. What an amazing week for the Shark—spending his honeymoon in Skibo Castle, showing up at Royal Birkdale to tune up for the Senior British Open and Senior U.S. Open, then feeling those old competitive juices. Fans perched themselves atop every sand dune to see if Norman could pull off a victory that would have ranked among the

most stunning in golf, from Jack Nicklaus winning the Masters at age 46 to Ben Hogan returning from a life-threatening car crash to win the U.S. Open. But instead of a fairy-tale ending, he delivered a rerun of opportunities lost in the majors. Norman hit into a pot bunker on the first hole and made bogey. He missed the green left on the second hole and made bogey. His tee shot buried in the right rough on the third hole for another bogey. And he had to make an 8-foot putt to save bogey on the sixth. Just like that, a two-shot lead over Harrington turned into a two-shot deficit. Harrington gave him one last chance with three straight bogeys to close out the front nine. That was the last bogey he made. "This year is more satisfying," Harrington said.

SSC

From Page 28

Kensuke Kimura next with swims of 39.44 and 40.37, respectively. Wong, meanwhile, was the biggest winner of the two-day event as the 17-year-old Marianas High School finished first in three events—200m individual medley, 50m backstroke,

and 1,500m freestyle. He swam the 200m IM in 2:20.04, followed by teammate Shin Kimura's 2:47.78 and Moran's 2:50.59. Wong then did the 50m backstroke in 32.20 to beat Shin and Kensuke Kimura, who finished with times of 38.22 and 39.77, respectively. In the longest swim of the day, Wong showed his mettle by

finishing the 1,500m freestyle in 18:28.77 with Shin and Kensuke Kimura coming next with times of 19:40.95 and 19:43.27, respectively. Other mixed events winners in the 2008 SSC Summer Classic were Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch and SSC's Sarah Johnson and Lester Lapuz. Welch topped the 800m freestyle in a time of 11:17.29

with Andrew Kimball of SSC coming in second in a time of 11:45.30. The two were the lone entries of the event. Johnson, for her part, won the 200m freestyle in a time of 2:24.76 followed by teammates Grace Kimball's 2:26.98 and Selyna Deleon Guerrero's 2:38.57. Lapuz, meanwhile, was lone swimmer in the 400m freestyle and finished it in 5:21.19.

AUSSIES

From Page 28

Guam is in solo first place in the Pacific Pool with a 2-0 win-loss card, followed by 1-1 teams the CNMI, Australia, New Zealand, and Indonesia. The Philippines, represented by Tanauan City Little League, is still looking for its first win after two starts. In the Asia Pool, defending champion Chinese-Taipei bludgeoned India, 16-0; host Hong Kong beat Thailand, 10-4; and South Korea skunked China,

18-0. Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong are tied at the top with identical 2-0 cards, followed by 1-1 Thailand and South Korea with China and India in the cellar with 0-2 win-loss records. Making up the CNMI Major League All-Stars for the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament are Jeremy Rabauliman, Chris Mizer, A.J. Lizama, Ricky Joe Riungel, A.J. Castro, Jared Sablan, Jun Rabauliman, Raymond Saralu, A.J. Lizama, Frankie Camacho, Jonah Flores, Jerome Reyes, Keene Deleon Guerrero, Jeremy Lizama, and

Poland Masaharu Randall Aguon serves as manager and helping him in the dugout are head coach Elmer Sablan and assistant coach Manny Sablan. Saipan's best 9-12-year-old ballplayers booked a ticket to the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament after beating Rota, 11-1, last June 12 at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo. The team faced off against archrival Guam yesterday, but results were still not available as of press time. The CNMI will square off

against New Zealand today before wrapping up its elimination round assignment against Indonesia tomorrow. The finals of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament will be held on July 24. The winner of the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament will qualify to compete in the 2008 Little League Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, later this summer. The Little League is a non-profit organization with the objective of promoting health and integrity among the young by organizing baseball events.

MANGARERO

From Page 28

and Tom Tebuteb (93). In the closest to the pin competition, Tawanpiy was without peer in hole No. 3, while Nick Sablan topped hole No. 13. RGA would also like to welcome new members Tebuteb and Jerry Ayuyu, who wasn't

able to take part in the July Ace because of a prior commitment. In related news, Wabol is reminding Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship. Only two tournaments remain before the RGA Club Championship—December qualifier and the De-

cember Ace. Wabol also said that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of \$50 to only \$25. This happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA. The club hopes that by mak-

ing membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club. For more information about RGA's new membership policies and other competitions held by the club, contact president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Jess Wabol at 233-3673.

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2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship



Above left, R.J. Macaranas proudly shows off the full-size CNMI flag along with his father Richard.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above right, it was the second straight year that R.J. Macaranas took part in the Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, R.J. Macaranas prepares to march with the CNMI colors during the parade of nations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Above, CNMI golfer R.J. Macaranas practices his swing at the Welk Resort a day before the start of the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Right, R.J. and Richard Macaranas proudly marches with the CNMI flag during the parade of nations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Below, a crowd gathers around the clubhouse where the kick off for the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship was held.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI golfer R.J. Macaranas takes part in the putting competition prior to the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
R.J. Macaranas has fun with a miniature CNMI flag along with his little brother before the parade of nations.



Redskins get Jason Taylor from Dolphins

Jason Taylor wanted out of Miami, and Bill Parcells seemed only too happy to trade the "Dancing with the Stars" defensive end.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sacrifice fly enables Yankees to hold off A's

Andy Pettitte outpitched Major League Baseball All-Star Justin Duchscherer, getting just enough run support from Jason Giambi's homer and a sacrifice fly by Alex Rodriguez.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Harrington wins 2nd straight British Open

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

Padraig Harrington enjoys few moments more than the walk down 18th fairway of a century-old links course, especially with a four-shot lead in the British Open and the engraver putting the final touches on the oldest trophy in golf.

He stopped Sunday to share the moment with Greg Norman, who knows this path all too well.

Celebration for one, sympathy for the other.

"I did say to him coming down 18 that I was sorry it wasn't his story that was going to be told," Harrington said. "I did feel that, but I wanted to win myself. In this game, you have to take your chances when you get them."

Harrington seized his opportunity by smashing a pair of fairway metals into the par 5s that carried him to a 32 on the back nine of blustery Royal Birkdale and made him Europe's first player in more than a century to win the British Open two years in a row.

"Obviously, winning a major puts you in a special club," Harrington said after closing with a 1-under 69 to win by four shots over Ian Poulter. "Winning two of them puts you in a new club altogether."

Norman got a chance no one saw coming.

Still on his honeymoon with tennis

great Chris Evert, at 53 only a part-time golfer with no expectations, the Shark found himself with a two-shot lead going into the final round and still one shot ahead with nine holes to play.

It ended like so many other majors for Norman—a quick succession of bogeys, the clutch shots belonging to someone else. He made eight bogeys in gusts that reached 40 mph, closed with a 77 and tied for third.

"Where does it rank in those? Probably not as high as some of the other ones," Norman said of the six other times he lost a 54-hole lead in a major.

"Quite honestly, I'm sure I surprised a lot of people."

So did Harrington.

The 36-year-old Irishman injured

his right wrist eight days ago, and it was so sore that he could only practice for nine holes on Tuesday and for three swings on the eve of his title defense.

He gave himself a 75 percent chance of starting, 50 percent of finishing.

Turns out that wrist was strong enough to hit all the right shots. Better yet, it was strong enough to lift the claret jug.

"It was a great distraction for me," Harrington said. "It took a lot of pressure off me. It took a lot of stress off me. The fact that I didn't play three practice rounds like normal for a major

was a big bonus. I was very fresh going into the weekend, and this 36 holes was a real battle."

Harrington first had to take the lead from Norman, which he did on the par-3 12th when Norman missed a 10-foot par putt. Then came a late charge from Poulter, who made a 15-foot birdie on the 16th and saved par with a 15-footer on the final hole for a 69 that looked like it might be good enough to win.

But the Irishman responded with clutch shots of his own. He hit a 3-wood into the wind to 40 feet on the par-5 15th and got down in two putts for birdie, giving him a two-shot lead. Standing in the 17th fairway, still aware that Norman could make eagle and stay in the game, Harrington hit a 5-wood that bounded onto the green and up the ridge, stopping 4 feet away for eagle.

That gave him a four-shot lead, and he knew it was over when his tee shot found the 18th fairway.

What a change from last year, when

Harrington made double bogey on the 18th hole, got into a playoff only when Sergio Garcia couldn't save par, and couldn't celebrate at Carnoustie until a testy 3-footer for par on the last hole of overtime.

"I enjoyed the claret jug so much I didn't want to give it back," Harrington said.

He finished at 3-over 283, becoming the first European since James Braid in 1905-06 to

win the Open in successive years.

It was his first victory since the British Open last year, and it could

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AP
Padraig Harrington of Ireland holds the trophy as he celebrates winning the British Open Golf championship, at the Royal Birkdale golf course, Southport, England, Sunday, July 20, 2008.

SSC sends off Stewart with Summer Classic

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Saipan Swimming Club head coach Michael Stewart will be leaving the CNMI soon but before he bids the islands goodbye, local swimmers gave him a great send-off last weekend during the 2008 SSC Summer Classic.

"As my last swim event here on island I was happy to see many great swims," Stewart said in an email to the Saipan Tribune.

A total of eight mixed events were held last Friday and Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool with SSC swimmers Grace Kimball, Blair Nichols, and Michael Moran joining Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong as the top performers of the meet.

Kimball made waves in the pool when her 1:05.92 in the 100m freestyle set a new record in the girls' 12-and-under age group.

Stewart said she also came

close to the 200m and 50m freestyle records, missing both by tenths of a second. Kimball also dropped seconds off her personal bests in the 200m freestyle to 2:26.98 and a second faster in the 50m freestyle to 30.68.

Blair, for his part, topped two races—the 50m butterfly and the 50m freestyle. Blair clocked in at 31:16 in the butterfly followed by Tsunami Saipan's Thea Minor (43.79) and Kaito Yanai (47.16).

The 15-year-old was also the first to touch the tile in the length-of-the pool freestyle in a time of 27.32. Teammate Junior Pamaran was second in 28.07, while Moran was third in 28.55.

Moran, for his part, duplicated Blair's two victories by topping the 100m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.

The 14-year-old Grace Christian Academy student won the 100m freestyle in 1:05.20, followed by Kimball's aforementioned 1:05.92 and Andrew Kimball's 1:20.22.

He also was No. 1 in the 50m breaststroke with his 38.68 with Pamaran and Tsunami Saipan's

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Aussies nip CNMI, 2-1

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Australia's Hills Junior Baseball Little League edged the CNMI Major League All-Stars In Day 2 of the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament last Sunday at the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

No details were available but the loss was a big blow for the islands' chances of topping the

Mangarero wins RGA July Ace

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Manny Mangarero topped the Refaluwasch Golf Association's July Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course after beating Ben Duenas' qualifying score.

Mangarero fired a net score of 64 built around the 12-handicapper's 76 gross (37 in the front and 39 in the back) to eclipse Duenas' qualifying net score of

Pacific Pool, much less book a ticket to the 2008 Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

It can be recalled that the CNMI made it to the finals last year after topping the Pacific Pool, but lost to Asia Pool toponotcher Chinese-Taipei in the Asia-Pacific finals.

In other results from the former Crown Colony last Sunday, Guam nipped the Philippines, 5-4; and New Zealand beat Indonesia, 4-1; in Pacific Pool play.

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68, which the latter shot during the 9th Annual St. Jude Golf Tournament held last June 21 at the same Kagman golf course.

Former CNMI national golfer Nick Sablan finished second in the weekend tourney with his net 66 (gross 73, 38-35), while Dwain Stephens came in third with his net 67 (gross 91, 44-47).

Other golfers that took part in the monthly tee off were Tars Olapai (70), Louie Tilipao (net 71), Jess Wabol (71), Andy Nepai (72), Sonny Flores (73), Asterio Tawanpiy (75), Bill Kaipat (76),

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